EAST BAY EXPRESS

JULY 1-7, 2009 EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

You're Not an Environmentalist

If You're Also a NIMBY

As Berkeley and Oakland debate their downtown plans, there is growing recognition that the fight against global warming requires greater urban density By Robert Gammon

CULTURESPY 30

FOOD 36

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

With more than two hundred items on the menu, how did we miss the Mayflower?

By Anneli Rufus

Chunks of canary-yellow mango, pastel jade-green pea pods and thick smoky strips of the most realistic faux chicken in a faux-meat town, hands down. Meanwhile in another dish, actual chicken and succulent Oreo-sized shrimp jut from Singapore vermicelli, each strand elegantly separate, stretchy, firm. If there's a Chinese phrase meaning al dente, it applies here. Almost every dish is packed with so much protein that you're primed to hike from here to San Leandro. It's *that* good, and yes, it's a hole-in-the-wall. *Story inside*

MOVIES 40

DEPRESSION, ANYONE?

The somber magnificence of *Public Enemies*. The deceptive depths of *The Girl from Monaco*.

MUSIC 48

BYRNE-ING DOWN THE HOUSE

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Linney Is Deluding Himself

People in civilized society are governed by ethical as well as legal standards. Counsel for EBMUD has opined that Linney has no legal conflict of interest though Linney works for a developer whose sole goal is to profit by tapping into the limited water supplies available for existing EBMUD users. That is unethical but may explain why lawyers have their own reputation to defend.

Linney should not vote on nor participate in the discussions of increasing water supplies by any means. Simply because we cannot distinguish between Linney the employee of SunCal and Linney the elected official.

We are not being told the truth by EBMUD. And the process is suffering. Why should EBMUD counsel and directors spend valuable time defending a biased and prejudiced evaluation of water expansion options with the obvious "I am not a crook" line. Human nature is such that voters will never believe Linney can separate his two roles. He is deluding himself if he thinks he can.

Barbara Thomas, Alameda

The Artful Dodge

One of the key issues the Ethics Commission did not address was the fact that the four individuals named in the complaint were, while claiming to be volunteer board members of a nonprofit organization, also officers or salaried employees of corporations. Even though the lobbying law in Oakland requires officers and directors to disclose that, the Ethics Commission ignored it in this instance.

What decides which hat a lobbyist is wearing when they meet in private with elected officials? The Commission never really attempted to answer this question. To be clear, the individuals named had more than one "hat" on when they lobbied, but only declared one "hat" in making their defense. I call it an "artful dodge," which was successful. The issue of lobbyists who are concurrently volunteer members of nonprofits and also officers and directors of their own private for-profit corporations is something the Ethics Commission will need to address.

John Klein, Oakland

Leech, Not Gold Digger

The article about "Eve" was offending. Her statement that she is not a gold digger is totally true: she is a leech. Most likely preying on older lonely and damaged men. Any younger man would see right through this ruse. I have more respect for a prostitute who at least provides a service other than her "wonderful" company. There is absolutely no excuse for her actions. The exact reason relationships mean nothing is due to what she is doing. She may not be someone else's "ladder," but all these "sponsors" are certainly hers. What kind of example is she setting for her child? She is purveying an endless cycle of irresponsible parenting by non-contribution to society. Take off the mask Eve, and deal with your "man" issues!

Jeremy Loos, Hayward

Where's the Controversy?

What is the point of the article, "Where the Garage Sale Never Ends"? Vickie's garage sale is near my home. Neighbors agree that she is an asset to the neighborhood, both for the occasional good deal and because she provides eyes on the street, keeping us all safer. Her operation is really a hobby. Cassie Harwood's article is full of misleading implications and poor writing.

The point of Ms. Harwood's article appears to be the legal standing of these garage sales. If they are not a problem for the neighborhood and do not generate enough money to be eligible for taxes, why does she care? In a city rife with corruption, incompetence, and illegal activity on the part of city officials, large corporations, and developers, Ms. Harwood is exploiting the vulnerable to get herself a story. I care that the *East Bay Express* appears to lack the moral compass and writing standards I have come to expect from the paper.

Seth Kain, Oakland

Correction

In the June 24 Culture Spy on the Nux 8, we misstated the first post-strike Bollywood movie. It was *Kal Kissne Dekha*, not *New York*.

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

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Semanti: Where Search Meets Your Friends

by Mielle Sullivan, Janus Networks

There have been several attempts to use crowdsourcing to help users find the information they are looking for on the web. The whole social bookmarking approach can be seen as a human solution to a mass of information and less than perfect search results. Google even displays StumbleUpon rated sites with a star ranking for SU users. While knowing a site is popular can be helpful for many searches, a recommendation from a friend is usually more valuable.

Enter Semanti, a Firefox add-on that combines search results, semantic parsing and friend recommendations through Facebook Connect. Just install the add-on and start saving search results you like with the Semanti button. Semanti stores your queries and saved results, so the next time you search for the same term (or something similar) on Google, Yahoo or Bing, the saved results will appear at the top. Next, invite your Facebook friends to use Semanti and their favored results will also appear at the top of your search results. You can access your Semanti saved searches on any computer or any search engine, as long as the add-on is installed in your browser.

The semantic parsing is also personalized, by you. Instead of relying on complex language software to determine what you mean in a given search query, Semanti displays several definitions in a definition menu. If you need to specify what you meant to refine your search, simply click on the menu and chose from the variety of meanings.

Of course the power of the "friendsourcing" will depend on how many of your friends adopt the tool. Given the mass of add-ons for Firefox, you may have to sell your friends on the concept. However, the one click bookmarking and automatic return of favored searches on similar terms makes Semanti a time-saver for me, even if I can't get any of my friends to use it. No longer will I need to try and remember which site was useful the last time I searched for something. Semanti saves it all right there. Plus, I may even get a little help form my friends.

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RAISING THE BAR

THE CURIOUS INTERACTION OF SEX AND RELIGION

When religion claims to have a mandate to lead based on a moral authority it deserves special scrutiny

By Jay Youngdahl

The curious and sometimes sordid relationship of sex and religion continues. In mid-June, Lorena Rouse of San Leandro held a news conference outside the Catholic diocese offices in Oakland, alleging that she was abused as a young girl by a priest at Our Lady of Good Counsel church in San Leandro. Rouse alleged that she was repeatedly molested while helping to clean the church more than thirty years ago and that the abusing priest told her that she was "a special little girl."

Such stories have become depressingly common. It is especially painful to see devoted Catholics being asked to pony up for the mounting legal and settlement costs of this bloodcurdling abuse of young girls and boys by Catholic leadership. Fortunately, the American legal system has begun to attend to some of these abuses since the church itself has conducted a tenacious and shameful cover-up of these transgressions.

On top of this abuse, sexual pots are boiling in Catholic, Muslim and evangelical Christian communities. In Miami, a popular Catholic priest, Father Alberto Cutie, known as the "Catholic Oprah" for his relationship advice on *Telemundo* and in a newspaper column, was caught cavorting on a beach with a young lady. Cutie, who had preached abstinence and was the author of a book called *Real Life, Real Love*, got too real with his girlfriend, now wife, and has had to leave the Catholic Church.

It may seem unfair to single out religion's convoluted relationship with sex, since one could make a similar claim to almost any area of society. The recent Argentinean escapades of the darling of the Republican right, Governor Mark Sanford of South Carolina, is but one example of the tango of politics and sex. But when a sector like religion claims to have a mandate to lead based on a moral authority, it deserves special scrutiny.

In the Muslim world, the U.S.-backed government in Afghanistan recently enacted legislation that codifies proper behavior for Shiite families in the most intimate detail. It requires women to submit to the sexual demands of their husbands unless ill or menstruating. It seems that if the wife refuses the sexual demands of her husband, the husband can starve her until she relents.

An emphasis on sex is growing in conservative Christianity as it fights for relevancy in an increasingly unchurched world. But it is causing heartburn for some. Mark Driscoll, the pastor of the Mars Hill Church in Seattle, has become a YouTube sensation with his sermons on sexual topics as explained by biblical passages. A recent one concerns whether it is a sin to masturbate. According to Driscoll's biblical interpretation, masturbation when done as part of a mutual sexual experience in marriage is just fine but is problematic in other contexts. Anal sex and the use of sex toys occupy a similar status, he counsels.

One of Driscoll's most controversial sexual admonitions is his argument that the biblical Song of Solomon requires women to perform fellatio on their husbands. According to a recent story in the *Baptist Press* and a transcript of his sermon floating around on the Internet, Driscoll said: "Men, I am glad to report to you that oral sex is biblical. ... The wife performing oral sex on the husband is biblical. God's men said, Amen. Ladies, your husbands appreciate oral sex. They do. So, serve them, love them well. It's biblical. Right here. We have a verse. 'The fruit of her husband is sweet to her taste and she delights to be beneath him.'"

In May, Driscoll was censored by Christian radio. According to the *Baptist Press*, Driscoll was scheduled to appear on the syndicated national radio program of the Family Life ministry, which is broadcast on several radio stations in the East Bay. Learning of his stance, the distributor cut the program off in mid-show and banned him from future broadcasts.

Driscoll also directs his flock to a web site called Christian Nymphos, which describes itself as a group of Christian women with "excessive sexual desire for our husbands." The Christian Nymphos web site, subtitled "Married Sex: Spicy, the way God intended it to be," is chock full of sexual advice. It includes a "Position Page" where you can find detailed instructions for "The Italian Chandelier" or "A Guy, a Girl and a Rocking Chair." And, of course, there is the ever religiously popular "The Praying Position." Links direct men to literature of "excellent guides for cunnilingus." They also suggest online sex games for Christian couples, and pages where you can see the positions acted out with the actors in swimsuits.

Sex and religion have many reasons to be entangled. Both can and are often abused in ways that pit the powerful against the powerless. When you look at these examples of religion and sex, it is hard not to look at who benefits from the ability of religious leadership to couch men's "needs" in an unassailable cloak of scriptural requirements. The ones who benefit are the men in charge. For me, when women seem in charge of the sexual agenda, such as appears to be the case with the Christian Nymphos, I feel much more charitable toward it.

But sex and religion do not have to have an exploitative interaction. Both sex and religion speak to consciousness and sensuality in a deeply human way and provide humans with great joy and meaning. Each expresses a longing and desire that is inexpressible in the human psyche and can be the strongest and most wonderful affirmations of love. Both address areas that often seem not to be "rational" in our cost-benefit descriptions of the meaning of rationality, but clearly are part of our cognitive process. And both are passions that can be pursued without worry about financial matters being front and center; they are two locations that our country's money fetish has a very hard time controlling. The poor can get as much joy from their sex and religion as can the wealthy.

Finally, for those who pray, I appreciate the advice given by the authors of the book *Staying Close*, which is promoted on the Family Life web site. The authors counsel couples to pray aloud in the "afterglow" of the sexual experience. I cannot think of a better time to pray. Shorn of exploitation, sexuality is sacred. ●

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SEVEN DAYS

OAKLAND GETS ITS SCHOOLS BACK

Plus the state is about to start issuing IOUs, sales tax receipts are up in Berkeley, BART workers ask for a raise, and Jerry Brown sues Pleasanton.

By Robert Gammon

After more than six years running Oakland's schools, the state returned the district to local control on Monday. The long-awaited move came nearly seven months after state auditors recommended it. Oakland's school board will now have full authority over nearly all aspects of the district for the first time since June 2003. Yet the state will maintain veto power over financial decisions for years to come, because the district still owes it about $80 million.

The state's legacy was definitely mixed. The first administrator, Randy Ward, instituted several important reforms, including making sure that all schools are funded equally, ending a long tradition of giving schools in the hills more money for teachers than flatlands schools. Ward also launched a lottery system that gives students in lower-income areas a better shot at attending high-performing schools. Previously, those schools served just neighborhood kids and the children of well-connected parents.

But the district also suffered under state control. Administrators were more obsessed with implementing reforms financed by wealthy businessmen Eli Broad and Bill Gates than returning the district to financial stability. In fact, education superintendent Jack O'Connell forced the district further into debt. When the state took over Oakland schools, the district was about $37 million in the hole, but the debt has ballooned over the past several years.

California Is Almost Broke

In Sacramento, the state proved once again that it can't balance its own budget either. Controller John Chiang said things are so bad that he will have to start issuing IOUs this week. Chiang issued his warning as Democratic leaders continued to waste time pushing a budget with no chance of passing. The plan sought to raise taxes to help bridge the $24 billion budget gap, but Dems couldn't muster enough GOP votes to get it through the Legislature. Even if they had, the governor promised to veto it. Chiang said he would issue the IOUs to local governments, private contractors, state vendors, and to taxpayers awaiting tax refunds. The move could be especially tough for local governments already suffering because of the recession.

What's Up with Berkeley?

One city that might not care much is Berkeley. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, sales tax revenues in Berkeley actually rose this year. City Manager Phil Kamlarz credited the increase to the success of the city's shopping districts, which are full of small, diverse stores that tend to soften the impact of both economic downturns and upturns. By contrast, cities that depend on big box retailers tend to experience booms and busts. Berkeley's numerous restaurants also helped boost tax receipts.

The increase in revenues has allowed the city to avoid layoffs and steep budget cuts. In fact, the city's budget is increasing next year, which is amazing considering what other cities are going through. So the next time someone in your town clamors for a big-box store, remind them that cities are better off developing shopping districts full of small, independent stores.

Give the IOUs to BART Workers

As employees throughout California started taking pay cuts or were being laid off, BART operators and station agents had the temerity to ask for a 3 percent raise over two years, according to the *Chron*. Those workers, along with another union, also voted to sanction a strike, although by early this week unions and management brought in mediators and agreed to keep negotiating.

Meanwhile, the *Chron* also reported that BART cop Anthony Pirone called Oscar Grant a "Bitch-ass Nigger" just before fellow cop Johannes Mehserle shot Grant to death as he lay face down on the ground. Pirone was caught hurling the racial epithet on videotape, and the revelation may further help explain how a routine arrest suddenly turned deadly. Pirone, however, maintains that he was merely repeating what Grant had said to him moments before. But Grant can't be heard on the tapes, while Pirone can. Moreover, the cop has a history of not telling the truth.

Jerry Brown Sues Pleasanton

California Attorney General Jerry Brown made headlines when he sued Pleasanton, alleging that its 1996 law capping the total number of homes in the city violates state law. Pleasanton is on the verge of approving a plan that calls for 45,000 more jobs there but no new housing. Brown says the housing cap forces workers to live elsewhere, thereby adding to sprawl and greenhouse gas emissions.

Brown also was in the news because LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced that he will not run for governor next year against the attorney general or San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom. According to a poll earlier this week, Brown appears to have benefitted the most from Villaraigosa's decision.

Three-Dot Roundup

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors gutted the county's criminal justice system, laying off 14 prosecutors, 15 public defenders, and 49 probation employees. Supervisors said they will rethink the layoffs if unions agree to pay cuts. ... The Berkeley school district has assembled a task force to deal with drug and alcohol use after 54 percent of eleventh graders reported being drunk or stoned on campus. ... Amazon.com threatened to sever ties with hundreds of state businesses if a bill by Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner of Berkeley forces the online giant to start charging sales tax. ... And Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher won confirmation for a top post in the State Department, setting the stage for an election between Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi and state Senator Mark DeSaulnier. ●

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THE POTHOLE CRUSADERS

Bicyclists hold East Bay cities accountable for keeping roads clear of debris and other hazards

By Nate Seltenrich

On a ragged stretch of road near the Coliseum in East Oakland, a small crew of city workers gathered to fill dozens of potholes on a recent Thursday morning. Six men and one woman from Oakland's Public Works Agency clad in white hard hats and bright orange vests progressed west along 66th Avenue between International Boulevard and San Leandro Street. It was the penultimate week of Oakland's annual "pothole blitz," in which several crews were dispatched throughout the city for the sole purpose of repairing potholes. Each of the city's three zones — north, central, and south — received two weeks of undivided attention and around seven hundred newly repaired potholes.

"The thing about the blitz is you can really see the difference," said Public Works Agency spokesperson Kristine Shaff. "It sends a message that says, 'We are here and we are working.'" And she's right — although the heavily trafficked stretch of 66th Avenue is in dire need of a complete overhaul, its patchwork of former potholes represents a beacon of municipal progress. Oakland's Public Works Agency lacks the money needed to grind and resurface overworked roads like this — it lost 78 employees to budget cuts, in fact, the very day 66th Avenue was addressed — and the situation could worsen if a recent state proposal to siphon gas tax revenues from local jurisdictions passes. Still, the department remains dedicated to working with what it's got, said Shaff.

In a city notorious for slow decision making and budget constraints on services, Oakland's Public Works Agency is decidedly efficient when it comes to pothole repair — thanks in part to the vigilant eyes of local bicyclists. Through a fifteen-year-old campaign managed by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition as well as via a city hotline, bicyclists can report potholes, debris, and other hazards that often shoot straight to the top of street and sidewalk workers' to-do lists.

"It can be invigorating, from the standpoint of getting things resolved," said Ian McDonald, the point person for the East Bay Bicycle Coalition's highly successful road hazard program. He knows where, how and to whom to report potholes, debris, and other dangers and he knows who will get the job done (leading the way are Dublin, Pleasanton, and Fremont) and who will probably blow him off (Richmond and the more tenuous jurisdictions of AC Transit and Waste Management are safe bets). In many cases, his reputation precedes him. "They tend to recognize me, because I'm such a pest and have been doing it all these years."

The program's success can be measured in cities like Oakland, which has made great strides in pothole repair in recent years, according to McDonald, who has volunteered as the Oakland-based nonprofit bicycle advocacy group's official "hazard elimination guy" for the past decade. Much of the improvement is due to the city's new reporting system, which employs a user-friendly, tho[ugh] occasionally buggy, online form that residents can use to alert the city to potholes and other hazards. "There are few other sites like it in the East Bay," said McDonald, "and it's done wonders for the city's accountability." Ninety percent of his pothole reports are answered by a tracking number within a day, and about 80 percent are resolved in a matter of weeks.

Workers repair a pothole during Oakland's recent "pothole blitz." Nate Seltenrich

Oakland's attention to hazard repair ramped up following a 1998 incident in which a bicyclist riding on a scenic road in Alameda County's Dublin Canyon caught his front wheel in the outermost slot of an improperly designed storm drain. His bike came to a sudden stop and he was thrown over the handlebars, landing on his head and severely fracturing his neck. He wound up paralyzed. The bicyclist sued and won a $9.5 million settlement after it was shown that the county had been notified of the drain's dangerous condition months before yet did nothing to fix it.

Spurred by the case, the City of Oakland proceeded to replace nine hundred of its own potentially hazardous storm drains. The preemptive strike owed at least as much to straight dollars and cents as it did to civic goodwill. Although often disregarded by motorists and pedestrians, parallel storm drains, potholes, and cuts pose significant dangers to bicyclists — and in cases where preexisting knowledge of the hazard can be proven, significant liabilities to cities. So they tend to be taken seriously.

Jennifer Stanley, one of two full-time bicycle and pedestrian facilities coordinators for the City of Oakland, agrees that the East Bay Bicycle Coalition's hazard reports carry a certain heft. She encourages bicyclists and other users to report directly to Public Works rather than through the Bicycle Coalition's site — at least as a first resort. "If they don't get service, EBBC could add value," she said. She also acknowledges that the Bicycle Coalition plays an important role within Oakland's street maintenance system as its eyes and ears on the ground. "We aren't everywhere," Stanley said. "The city is pretty darn big, so we definitely appreciate hearing about potholes."

With thousands of paying members throughout the East Bay, the Bicycle Coalition is a sturdy organization, and its hazard elimination program a well-oiled machine. Members and guests alike are encouraged to report problems directly through its web site, including ruts and potholes, dangerous drop-offs, trash and debris, improper signage, and precarious railroad crossings. Some of the more diligent members report every week or two, while others submit only once a year. All told, the East Bay Bicycle Coalition pursues a couple hundred potholes and other hazards in both counties every year.

"It keeps our name in front of the Public Works Department," said East Bay Bicycle Coalition executive director Robert Raburn. "A lot of what advocacy involves is just the reminder that we're there looking over their shoulder. We expect good behavior." Even in the midst of a recession and from famously sluggish cities like Oakland, that's often just what they get. More than any of the Bicycle Coalition's other campaigns, pothole reporting works. "I would say it's our most effective advocacy effort," said Raburn. "It's the one area we have had success in since day one."

That said, even the East Bay Bicycle Coalition has its limits, and other groups have helped fill in the blanks. On May 2, nonprofit journalism organization Spot.us organized the We Hella Hate Potholes Bike Ride to locate and map as many potholes as possible throughout Oakland in one afternoon. Rain kept most bikers away, but the seven who did show identified more than fifty distinct potholes. Pavement conditions are also a central and ongoing concern at Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, an advocacy group geared toward infrastructure development.

Then there's Bob Dort, who commutes by bike from his home in Fremont to his office in Los Altos once a week. On the morning of May 14, Bike to Work Day, he made his first unofficial report to the East Bay Bicycle Coalition: a tire and a scrap of sheet metal were impeding the Dumbarton Bridge's pedestrian and bicycle path. He hoped to learn who was responsible for path maintenance, or perhaps brainstorm some sort of adopt-a-bridge program. What Dort got was something else altogether, something he never saw coming. When he returned across the bridge that afternoon, the path was completely cleared. ●

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Berkeley's proposed downtown plan envisions adding four new 180-foot-tall buildings.

City of Berkeley

You Can't Be an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY

As both Berkeley and Oakland debate their downtown plans, there is growing recognition that the fight against global warming requires greater urban density. By Robert Gammon

Global warming is changing far more than just the climate. It's altering the way environmentalists view development. For years, city dwellers who consider themselves to be eco-conscious have used environmental laws and arcane zoning rules to block new home construction, especially apartments and condominiums. In the inner East Bay, liberals have justified their actions by railing against gentrification and portraying developers as profiteers. But the lack of urban growth in Berkeley and in parts of Oakland during the past few decades also has contributed to suburban sprawl and long commutes. And all those freeways choked with cars are now the single biggest cause of greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

Environmentalists who think globally say suburban sprawl and the destruction of rural farmland must stop. Indeed, the threat of the coming global warming crisis makes the growth of urban areas an imperative. And some activists who have fought developers for years are now embracing them and calling for so-called "smart growth" or "infill development" — dense urban housing near mass transit. And they note that downtown Berkeley and Oakland, along with the major transportation corridors between the two cities, are nearly perfect for transit-oriented development.

In fact, Greenbelt Alliance, an environmental group that has been fighting suburban sprawl for decades, recently pinpointed the inner East Bay as one of the region's top potential growth areas. In a report released last month, "Grow Smart Bay Area," the alliance estimated that the inner East Bay west of the hills could accommodate at least 106,000 new housing units by 2035. The group based its estimate on data from the Association of Bay Area Governments and UC Berkeley's Institute of Urban and Regional Development. "The truth is we just can't afford suburban sprawl anymore," explained Greenbelt Alliance's Elizabeth Stampe. "It just puts more cars on the roads and adds to greenhouse gases."

At a time when new home construction has ground to a halt because of the housing collapse, the debate over urban growth may seem odd. But the market will eventually recover and when it does, the pent-up demand for housing in the Bay Area likely will be substantial. According to a nearly finished study by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, consumer desire for transit-oriented development appears to be stronger than ever. "Even now, there is a lot more demand than there is supply," said MTC planner Valerie Knepper, who is leading the study.

But for the inner East Bay to grow the way it should, it will have to overcome the region's well-developed not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) sensibilities. In Berkeley and North Oakland in particular, liberals who view themselves as environmentalists have been blocking dense housing developments for decades. They have complained about traffic, overcrowding, and the potential destruction of neighborhood character. But among those who are paying attention to the causes of global warming, there is a growing realization that no-growth activists have to step back and look at the bigger picture. Climate change has forced a paradigm shift in the environmental movement. If you live in an urban area, you can't call yourself an "environmentalist" and continue to act like a NIMBY by blocking new housing.

In Berkeley, where NIMBY sentiment is especially strong, a group of developers and activists who advocate for smart growth sometimes refer to themselves as YIMBYs (Yes In My Backyard). "Our goal is to shift the idea of what it means to be an environmentalist when living in a city, away from the protection of land to the more efficient use of land," explained Erin Rhoades, the volunteer executive director of Livable Berkeley. For several years, her group has been battling a small but very vocal coalition of city residents who simultaneously view themselves as green while staunchly opposing urban housing development.

During the past year, the war between Berkeley's NIMBYs and YIMBYs has grown especially intense as the city council has moved toward rezoning its downtown to accommodate more dense development. The council is scheduled to take up the so-called Downtown Area Plan on July 7, and again on July 14. So far, Berkeley's smart growth forces appear to be winning the argument, as the council seems ready to approve a plan that calls for much more dense construction and taller buildings than the anti-development faction wants.

The Oakland City Council, meanwhile, is scheduled to debate its new downtown plan on July 7 too. But there are far fewer NIMBYs in Oakland when it comes to downtown issues. In fact, there is widespread agreement that the city's core needs to grow significantly. Yet in an ironic and unfortunate twist, Oakland's overwhelming desire to attract new development may prompt the council to approve a plan that could leave the downtown fallow for years to come.

Ultimately, the factors affecting whether either city succeeds or fails — and whether it helps curb greenhouse gases — are in the details.

Berkeley has been a national leader in the fight against global warming. Last fall, the city launched its innovative, municipally financed solar-power program. And in early June, the city council adopted an aggressive Climate Action Plan that seeks to greatly lower Berkeley's greenhouse gas emissions. And yet the current fight over a proposal that would help curtail suburban sprawl by allowing dense development in its downtown has been fierce.

Mayor Tom Bates, who backs the density plan and who received widespread recognition for his decision earlier this year to get rid of his car, says a small, vigilant, and loud group of anti-growth activists have attempted to hijack the process. But he thinks a majority of the council will ultimately adopt the dense development proposal. "The council has come to understand that a group of people — it's hard to quantify how many, but we think it's about 30 percent of the population — don't want anything to grow; they don't want anything to happen," the mayor said. "We just have to keep in mind that there's another 70 percent who aren't that vocal."

Much of the heated debate over the plan has been about tall buildings. After eighteen months of meetings, a city-sponsored committee recommended that the council allow four 100-foot tall

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You're Not an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY

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buildings, and four that are 100 feet tall in the downtown area. However, the city's planning commission, which is more development friendly, came up with its own plan that would allow six 120-foot-tall buildings, and four that are 180 feet tall — as tall as the existing Wells Fargo building, the city's tallest. Both plans would also allow most new buildings to be built at a maximum height of 85 feet. The council appears to be leaning toward approving the denser plan, which some critics decry as "the Manhattanization of Berkeley."

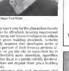
In truth, the fight over building heights is misdirected. Tall buildings are unlikely to be built in Berkeley anytime soon because they're too expensive to construct. The real difference between the two plans is that the less dense one will probably result in no tall buildings, while the other will probably produce four. The reason is that developers prefer buildings that are less than 75 feet tall or greater than 180 feet, but not in between. So any plan that calls for 100-foot, or 120-foot tall buildings is unrealistic.

Why? In buildings that are less than 75 feet tall, developers can use wood framing, which tends to be relatively inexpensive. But above that height, fire-safety codes require them to build with reinforced concrete or steel, which costs a lot more. As a result, developers can't make a tall building profitable unless it's at least 180 feet in height (seventeen stories). Anything shorter than that means that the developer won't generate enough money from selling condos or renting apartments to pay for the high costs of erecting the building in the first place.

Kriss Worthington

In a study conducted for the city last year, Strategic Economics, a Berkeley-based consultant that advises cities throughout the Bay Area including Oakland, found that once the housing market rebounds the only feasible buildings for developers in Berkeley will be less than 75 or at least 180 feet tall. The report said it's possible that developers could make 140-foot-tall buildings pencil out in ten to fifteen years — but not ones that are 100 feet or 120. In other words, if Berkeley were truly serious about allowing tall buildings in downtown, then it would adopt a plan that calls for a few that are 140 feet tall, and several more at 180 feet. "I don't mean to be pessimistic, but infill development is very challenging," said Nadine Fogarty, a principal at Strategic Economics.

Nonetheless, the debate about tall buildings ultimately misses the point. Both the less-dense, and more-dense plans provide for plenty of housing. But the real threats to downtown development are the restrictions placed upon it. The two main opponents of Berkeley's dense downtown plan on the council are Kriss Worthington and Jesse Arreguin, who also are considered the most liberal members of the council. In interviews, both said they won't vote for the plan unless the city increases its affordable housing requirement to 25 percent and forces developers to adhere to strict green building standards. Berkeley currently requires that developers make at least 20 percent of their housing projects affordable, or pay the city an equivalent fee to build affordable units elsewhere, regardless of whether there is a public subsidy involved. It also does not require strict green building standards.



Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates

Worthington also said developers that don't provide sufficient parking should pay a "transportation services fee," while Arreguin said that developers should help pay for open space and other "public improvements." When asked whether they were simply putting up barriers to smart growth, both said they believed developers can afford it. Worthington also said that ensuring that more affordable housing is built in Berkeley is his top priority and that developers often find loopholes in the 20 percent rule that allow them to build less than that. "For some people in Berkeley, the height of the building is what they care about," he said. "For me, it's the affordability."

Both councilmen bristled when asked whether they were being NIMBYs. "I think it's laughable," Worthington said. "I campaigned for office supporting 1,000 units of housing in my district and 5,000 in the City of Berkeley. That's not a very NIMBY thing to say." Worthington said he is not among the "25 percent who think that Berkeley is dense enough and that we don't need more growth." "There isn't anybody on this council who is saying we don't need more density in downtown," he said.

While Worthington and Arreguin may indeed support dense development, the requirements they're advocating would probably kill most of it, according to the Strategic Economics report. The study concluded that even in a robust housing market, the 20 percent affordable housing

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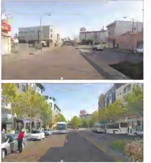
Greenbelt Alliance advocates a much denser San Pablo Avenue than is currently the case

Urban Advantage

You Can't Be an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY

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requirements and a green building standard would make 75-foot-tall and 180-foot-tall buildings barely feasible for developers. By contrast, the study indicated that the city could spur downtown development by reducing the affordable housing requirement to 10 percent and by not adopting the green building standard at all.

Ali Kashani, a longtime Berkeley developer and co-founder of Livable Berkeley, the YIMBY group, said he believes that advocates of the affordable housing requirement and the strict green building standard know that those proposals will sell well in liberal Berkeley. After all, who could be against affordable housing and eco-friendly buildings? But Kashani said he believes that the advocates of those requirements are exploiting them to block downtown development. "They know nobody will build," he said.

Rhoades of Livable Berkeley said the lack of new housing development over the past few decades has made Berkeley almost entirely unaffordable. But if the city were to add lots of new housing, she argued, it would create an abundance of supply, thereby lowering prices. In addition, more housing developments will result in more money to build affordable units or more cash the city can use to subsidize affordable housing elsewhere. Plus more housing will allow more workers to live in Berkeley, thereby slowing suburban sprawl.

Stampe of Greenbelt Alliance also cautioned against getting hung up on green building standards. The location of housing can have a far greater effect on greenhouse gas emissions, she explained. By definition, housing in cities already is much greener because people have shorter commutes. She explained that you can build an eco-friendly home in the suburbs, but if you spend a lot of time in your car, it's worse for the environment. "If you're driving from your so-called green home every day, it turns out not to be very green," she noted.

Meanwhile in downtown Oakland, the biggest impediment to growth over the years hasn't been NIMBYism but crime. The widespread perception that downtown is dangerous has stymied development. But in recent years, Oakland's Uptown area, just north of downtown, has launched a comeback, particularly since the renovation of the historic Fox Theater. And city leaders hope to capitalize on it.

At its July 7 meeting, the Oakland City Council likely will approve a plan to allow an unlimited number of tall buildings throughout much of downtown. The proposal follows months of debate that — as in Berkeley — centered on high rises. Most developers have advocated for as many skyscrapers as possible in the downtown core. At an Oakland City

Council committee meeting last week, developer Kathy Kuhner summed up the sentiment when she waxed romantic about the "tall slender buildings" of Vancouver and Hong Kong.

Local preservationists, led by the Oakland Heritage Alliance, also want more high rises in the city's core. But they are concerned that an explosion of growth could ultimately lead to the destruction of historic structures to make room for more skyscrapers. Meanwhile people concerned about preserving the beauty of Lake Merritt worry that tall buildings along the lakefront could "wall off the lake" and block views of iconic downtown buildings such as the Tribune Tower and City Hall.

The council appears ready to approve a sort of compromise that would allow skyscrapers throughout much of downtown while keeping buildings along Lakeside Drive near the Scottish Rite Temple no taller than 170 feet. The council also seems likely to adopt plans to further study view corridors and ways to protect historic structures.

But the city's proposal could end up backfiring. Mike Pyatok, an accomplished Oakland architect who designs buildings for developers throughout the West, is making a convincing argument that the city's plan, if approved, will leave the downtown too expensive to develop, thereby stifling its growth potential and spurring more suburban sprawl. "They think they're making the city an open book for development, but they're doing the opposite," Pyatok said of city leaders. "They're closing the book."

Pyatok explained that rezoning most of the downtown for tall buildings will artificially raise property values, thereby inhibiting development. Erecting tall buildings is already a costly endeavor, so developers need to acquire land as cheaply as possible to make it work. But if the downtown is rezoned for tall buildings, property owners are going to demand more money for their land, Pyatok explained, noting that property values usually increase when land is rezoned for high rises.

"They may not understand that the interests of property owners are the exact opposite of developers," Pyatok said of council members. "Property owners want to get the most they can for their property, while developers need to get the cheapest price. So, to just block out the whole downtown for high rises is going to make property owners think they're sitting on a gold mine. And all those areas in the downtown are going to sit empty."

Other cities, particularly Seattle, have recognized this problem and thus limited tall buildings to small sections of the city while only allowing buildings of up to 75 feet tall elsewhere, Pyatok said. The 75-foot height limit keeps property values low, making land more attractive for developers. And while 75-foot tall buildings are cheaper to erect because they can be constructed with wood framing, Pyatok noted that Oakland limits wood framing to buildings 65 feet and shorter. He said the city should change that standard to match Seattle's.

Oakland could achieve plenty of density with 75-foot tall housing developments, Pyatok argued. Assuming that such buildings can house about 150 people per square acre of buildable space, that works out to about 96,000 residents per square mile. As a reference, Manhattan is home to about 65,000 people per square mile. "It's just a misunderstanding to think that you have to have high-rises to get high density," said Pyatok, who also has been studying the potential growth of Upper Broadway with a group of graduate students. "I really think that a 75 foot height limit throughout a great deal of downtown would create a lot of density."

Oakland, he believes, should limit skyscrapers to Broadway, near the 12th Street and 19th Street BART stations. Or, he said, the city should take a hard look at what San Francisco and other cities have done. San Francisco limits both building density and height, but allows property owners to buy and sell development rights to construct skyscrapers. So if you're a property owner and you do not intend to build a high rise, then you can sell the space above your building to another developer, who then can add it to his or her property and build taller. As a result, San Francisco has been able to protect historic buildings while controlling land values and spurring growth.

Limiting most new buildings to 75 feet high also would generate more workforce housing by helping keep property values and building costs low. By contrast, high rise condos are primarily for the wealthy because developers need to charge high prices to cover the increased costs. "High rises only work for high end housing," noted Pyatok, who sent a letter to top city officials outlining his concerns.

So is the city council going to ignore the lessons learned by other cities? It appears so. Earlier this year, the city planning commission chose not to request an in-depth study of San Francisco's model for buying and selling development rights. And in an interview, Eric Angstadt, the city's deputy director of economic development who has led the downtown plan process, refused to comment on whether his office had examined Seattle's experience with limiting building heights to 75 feet.

In other words, Oakland's intense desire to finally develop its downtown appears likely to hurt its chances of ever attaining it — and thus helping fight global warming.

As Berkeley and Oakland debate the futures of their respective downtowns, both cities have yet to seriously examine the opportunities for dense development along the major transit corridors between them. Greenbelt Alliance's report identified San Pablo and Telegraph avenues as potential growth areas, along with Upper Broadway, sometimes known as Auto Row. Of the three, the group thinks San Pablo can house the largest number of people and have the biggest impact on sprawl. "It's a huge opportunity," said Stampe of the alliance. "It really makes a lot of sense."

San Pablo is ripe for both rezoning and redevelopment. Greenbelt Alliance envisions a much denser urban strip with taller buildings replacing the strip malls and single-story businesses with parking, not to mention the empty storefronts and vacant lots. San Pablo, in short, is a prime example of how not to do smart growth construction. "It feels like a highway," Stampe noted. Adding more apartments and condos also would help many of the businesses along the avenue. And the recent growth on San Pablo in Emeryville further points to the street's unrealized capacity.

But in terms of attracting large numbers of residents, no street in the East Bay may have more potential than Telegraph Avenue between the UC campus and downtown Oakland. Telegraph is already more desirable than San Pablo, as evidenced by the recent explosion in popularity of the Temescal area in North Oakland. But

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You're Not an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY

Continued from page 15

developing Telegraph in Berkeley promises to be contentious if the area's strong opposition to Bus Rapid Transit along the avenue is any indication. Telegraph's growth also could be curbed by NIMBYism, which is particularly strong on the avenue.

Mike Pyatok

In the intense mid-decade battle over a condo project at Telegraph and 51st Street, a group of anti-dense-development activists who called themselves Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development sought to block the project and demanded height limits of 48 feet in the Upper Telegraph neighborhood. They were opposed by a pro-dense-development group, known as Urbanists for a Livable Temescal Rockridge Area, which backed the 68-unit project and advocated for taller buildings, up to 75 feet in the area. Ultimately, the city approved the condo project, but it has yet to break ground because of the housing crisis.

Upper Broadway in North Oakland also may prove to be controversial. Oakland City Council President Jane Brunner, who represents North Oakland, said that residents who live east of Broadway and enjoy views of San Francisco will likely oppose 55-foot to 75-foot-tall buildings. Brunner believes that smart-growth advocates, whom she calls "urbanists," need to learn how to "work with people who have lived in neighborhoods for years."

That may be true, but the people who have lived for years along the East Bay's major transit corridors and consider themselves to be liberal environmentalists also need to finally start thinking globally and acting locally. The coming global warming crisis demands that they do more than just eat organic, install solar panels, or buy a Prius.

They also need to realize that dense development will make their neighborhoods and their cities better — not worse. More people means more shops, cafes, and restaurants — and more tax revenue. And when you think about it, who doesn't want to be able to walk to the local store for a bag of groceries or grab a cup of coffee at the corner cafe — and, say, help save the planet at the same time? ■

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FAVIANNA AND THE NEW PRINT REVOLUTION

Fruitvale artist uses printmaking to advance social causes

In person, Favianna Rodriguez is nearly as eye-catching as her paintings and political posters. Speaking on a recent Wednesday at the Kala Art Institute — where she has spent two years as an artist-in-residence — the petite thirty-year-old raced through twenty slides in about fifteen minutes. She looked much younger than most people in the audience, with her spaghetti strap top and shock of dyed red hair shining like a geranium in bloom. Her slides showed a fierce but very considered body of work: Bright tints, bold outlines, weighty political slogans. A "sex positivity" poster featured an orange-brown woman with pink hair and squiggly facial features. A green-collar jobs graphic featured pictures of immigrant women — one wearing a gas mask, another at a sewing machine — and the message "Green Is Not White." In another print made for a banned books exhibit, Rodriguez reinterpreted Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* by wedging a feeble, diminutive "Mr.__" between two women's heads.

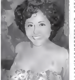
"When I read *The Color Purple* I was like, 'Wow.' I really want to show the story of these two women," Rodriguez recalled. "On the left and the right you have the two sisters, and in the center the man who divided them."

Rodriguez' whole oeuvre is populated by women. They come from all walks of life. Some are sweatshop workers, others yell into megaphones, many are drawn in loud, sexy tints — vermillion reds, lemon yellows, the orangest shades of orange. Even the women who look abstract or amorphous are part of Rodriguez' form-meets-content aesthetic. Taken as a whole, her work is partly about gender affirmation, but it's also geared toward a certain visual mythology of the oppressed. Supporters deem her a torchbearer, while detractors call her a propagandist — labels that can be equally damaging, the artist said. "I get asked a lot, 'Well, you're doing political posters, at what point does your art stop being political?'" she told the audience at Kala. "Honestly, I think that's a very narrow way to look at things."

It would be difficult for Rodriguez to create anything that didn't seem innately political, given her background and her anomalous role in the art world. Born in Fruitvale to Peruvian immigrant parents, she moved to Mexico City as at age thirteen to escape corrupting influences at home. "Oakland was a little dangerous for a teenager, and I was kind of going down the wrong path and hanging out with the wrong people," said Rodriguez. At the time, she identified more with Chicano culture than with her Peruvian heritage, having grown up surrounded by Mexican immigrants in East Oakland. She went to Mexico in search of order and stability, and instead found a rigid traditionalist society that wasn't fast enough for her.

"I was too liberated," she recalled. "I was too Americanized for Mexico. I would hang out with a lot of boys. I would talk a lot of shit to boys, I would be very open with my ideas but in a way that was viewed as being too liberal. I would hang out with a lot of the queer girls — or the girls that didn't know they were gonna be lesbians in their future, you know what I mean? I would hang out with all the outsider kids. All the gay boys, all that. I would just hang out with all the outcasts. ... It was culture shock for me, but for everyone who interacted with me, they were probably like, '*Wow*.'"

When she first got to Mexico Rodriguez moved in with an aunt, and after that didn't work out, she started renting a room from an old woman. (During those years, she said, her mother would discipline her over the phone.) She now characterizes those years as a period of artistic maturation. Being an outsider was not necessarily a horrible thing — especially for someone whose later work would focus heavily on cultural "othering."


Favianna Rodriguez. Rachel Swan

"When I was alone I would paint and draw and it made me happy," she said. "I mean, think about it. When you're a teenager, you'd rather be hanging out with boys." It was during her Mexican sojourn that Rodriguez began to identify strongly with the well-known Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, who was famous for challenging cultural mores. "She broke boundaries around how to depict the brown woman body — I mean she was just amazing to me. She was a cross-dresser, you know?"

Rodriguez repatriated to the United States her junior year and graduated from Skyline High School in 1996, then went on to study architecture at UC Berkeley at her parents' behest. (Most immigrant parents weren't too keen on watching their children flounce around in the arts, she explained.) She took one art class from the Chicana painter Yreina Cervantez, who introduced Rodriguez to printmaking (i.e., creating multiple impressions of a single work of art). At that point, Rodriguez decided to quit school and follow a new vocation. "What I loved about printmaking is that you didn't have a one-of-a-kind. In Mexico I was making these huge paintings and drawings and that's it. There's just one of them. I don't like this idea of having one thing that's really valuable."

Given the political bent of her work, Rodriguez easily cottoned to the idea of reproducible art. After dropping out of Cal she launched several arts organizations, including the bilingual graphic design studio Tumis, and the muralist program Visual Element (co-founded with then-boyfriend Estria Miyashiro). She helped found the EastSide Arts Alliance, which later birthed EastSide Cultural Center in Oakland's San Antonio neighborhood. She began hanging out with graffiti artists, and said their gestalt work ethic rubbed off on her. In 2003, she started the printmakers' collective Taller Tupac Amaru with two artist friends, Melanie Cervantes and Jesus Barraza. The three of them wanted to reinvigorate the medium of screen printing, which, they decided, was one of the best ways to mass-produce political poster art.

Despite citing Frida Kahlo as her main historical antecedent, Rodriguez is a lot closer in sensibility to the graphic artist Emory Douglas. Her bold lines, scribbled lines, and photographic collages have the same tabloid newspaper aesthetic that characterized his Black Panther images. She churns them out quickly. Rodriguez currently works at the rate of one commission a week, making posters for nonprofits and album covers for hip-hop groups in Mexico. Recently she began designing set pieces for the ShadowLight Productions, a Balinese puppet theater group. She displays a lot of her work on a chatty blog that also contains updates on agribusiness, fertility issues in the Latina community, and protests of oil and mining projects in the Amazon region of Peru.

During the Q&A portion of Rodriguez' Kala lecture, a woman asked if she had drawn any images for the 2008 Obama campaign. It seemed fitting, after all, for an artist whose work is so tightly intertwined with social movements. But Rodriguez said the Obama campaign was one thing she'd quietly sidestepped. "I felt like it was saturated, especially for some of the things I'm doing," Rodriguez explained. "I want to do stuff against corporate America — globalization, free trade, and stuff. I just decided to sit that one out." She did, however, just print an image of Supreme Court Justice nominee Sonia Sotomayor. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

Show Info

New prints and posters by Taller Tupac Amaru are on display through July at Oakland's Asian Resource Gallery (310 Eighth St.). Favianna.com

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Lakeside.

Desley Brooks Forays into Concert Promotion

Arroyo Park Concert Series brings hope to a rough neighborhood in East Oakland

City Councilwoman Desley Brooks has spent the last several years consolidating her role as a concert promoter. By now she's good at it. Since 2005, Brooks has co-produced an ambitious **summer music series at Arroyo Viejo Park**, smack in the middle of the Eastmont-Seminary District that she represents — an area known for murders. It kicked off this year with a performance by ex-Tower of Power frontman Lenny Williams, drawing more than 1,000 people. Williams is typical of headliners that Brooks chooses: older soul singers who can still slay a love ballad. Her second old-school installment happens Sunday, July 5, with the frequently sampled funk band **Lakeside**. Both of those shows fell into place with the help of Tony! Toni! Toné! singer-turned-city-booster D'Wayne Wiggins and his company Grassroots Entertainment. The August event, co-curated by hometown comedian Mark Curry, will feature an all stand-up lineup, and Brooks will add a gospel showcase in September. What began as a neighborhood party has become a source of civic pride and a way for Brooks to create — or burnish — her own brand identity.

Apparently, Brooks moved at just the right time. Since Art & Soul premiered in 2002, festivals have been springing up all over Oakland, a city that has long been hibernating. "It had been 25 years since there was a concert at Arroyo Viejo," Brooks said. "I think that's a kind of deprivation for a community." She envisioned something similar to the free concerts she attended at Rock Creek Park in D.C. while interning for then-Congressman Ron Dellums. "I was sixteen, and it was the first time I had been to D.C. by myself," said Brooks. "I'm assuming they were a city-sponsored thing. ... I got on the bus and figured out how to get there. Fortunately, it was at the end of the ride." That memory resurfaced years later when she met Wiggins at Stern Grove, and the two started shopping it up. They put a program together shortly thereafter. Last year Mark Curry got on board at Brooks' behest — but it didn't take much beseeching, said Brooks, as Curry has always been eager to "give back to a community that gave so much to him." Curry's inaugural 25-act comedy show kicked off with a eulogy for Bernie Mac, and a nod to then-presidential candidate Barack Obama, whose "audacity and hope" slogan inspired the theme. "Where there is laughter there is hope."

Such words seem apropos for the Arroyo Park series, which, despite scant press attention (until Mark Curry appeared last year), has helped brighten the mood in one of East Oakland's roughest neighborhoods, year after year. Like the old-school acts it highlights, this thing has real staying power.

Lakeside performs Sunday, July 5, as part of the Arroyo Park Concert Series at Oakland's Arroyo Viejo Park (7701 Krause St.). 4-6 p.m., free. 510-238-7006

— Rachel Swan

ATTRACTIONS

Alameda County Fair With horse racing, concerts, carnival rides, pig races, a festival square, petting zoo, fireworks and more, and live entertainment. For info, visit AlamedaCountyFair.com. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fridays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Continues through July 12. $4-$10 (season pass). Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 925-426-7600. AlamedaCountyFair.com.

Molecularium: *Riding Snowflakes* A digital planetarium show that introduces audiences to atoms, molecules, and polymers. Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.; Sundays, 12:30 p.m. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Oakland Artisan Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4020. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Sunday Nature Adventures Learn about snakes, butterflies, insects, or shellmounds, and their adventures in the world we live in during this weekly program. This program is great for adults and scout groups. Registration required. Sundays, 2-3 p.m., free. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else — more than 12,000 varieties. In fact, free tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m., open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND-RAISERS

1st Wednesday Street Parties With live bands, vendors from local businesses, and samplings from local restaurants. For info, visit PleasantonDowntown.net/events. First Wednesday of every month, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 2, free. Downtown Pleasanton, Main St., Pleasanton. 925-484-2199.

3rd Honors Frederick Douglass Day/Alternative 4th of July Celebration With the Upsurge! jazz poetry ensemble and the Frederick Douglass Youth Ensemble, led by Steven Turré and Sid Sibert. Plus refreshments and a raffle. Fri., July 3, 8 p.m. Oakland Public Conservatory of Music, 1616 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-836-4649. OPCMusic.org.

4th of July at the Berkeley Marina Live entertainment on the main stage with nature sculptures, art & craft booths, ... free sailboat rides from 1-4 p.m., dragon boat rides from 2-6 p.m., and the grand fireworks off the end of the Berkeley Pier at dusk. Alcohol-free event with complimentary valet bike parking. For info, call 510-548-5335. Sat., July 4, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., free. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740.

4th of July Jubilee and Parade With a pancake breakfast, Bay Area Square Dancers, and live performances by the Raymond Motor Band. Parade kicks off at 11:30 a.m. at Willow Pass Road near Park 'n Shop Center and ends by Todos Santos Plaza on Salvio Street. Singing Flag performance and fireworks at Concord Boulevard Neighborhood Park beginning at 7:30 p.m. Sat., July 4, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., $5 for pancakes. Todos Santos Plaza, Willow Pass Rd. and Grant St., Concord. 925-671-3464.

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family ... Benefits Holt PCFMA ... Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 29, free. Webster St. at Taylor Ave., Alameda. 510-247-7400.

Chinatown Night Market Chef demonstrations, live music and merchant vendors. Saturdays, 4-9 p.m. Continues through July 25, free. Oakland Chinatown, 11th St. (at Webster St.), Oakland.

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PICKS

Fuck the Fourth Sale

What better way to spend this Fourth of July than curled up with a copy of Noam Chomsky's *Understanding Power* or Victoria Law's *Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women*? You can find both at **AK Press warehouse** (674-A 23rd St., Oakland) along with recipe books for vegan gourmands, guides to female orgasms, a hair series about computer hackers, and polemics on everything from the drug war to "gay assimilation." On Friday July 3, AK Press will offer books, 'zines, music, pamphlets, and DVDs at 15 percent off for its annual **Fuck the Fourth Sale** with some titles marked down as low as $1. Snacks provided. 4-10 p.m., free. AKPress.org — *Rachel Swan*

Frederick Douglass Day Celebration

Oakland will never suffer for lack of against-the-grain Fourth of July fetes. One of the best is Oakland Public Conservatory's annual **Frederick Douglass Day Celebration**, which pays homage to the famed 19th-century abolitionist rather than to soldiers of the Revolutionary War. This year's event features Upsurge! Jazz Poetry Ensemble, a group that sets two spoken-word poets against a horn and rhythm section, so that the music behind them underscores the musicality of their language. Local actor Michael Lange will make a special guest appearance, alongside poet and activist Cesar A. Cruz. The show tops off with a performance by the conservatory's own Frederick Douglass Youth Ensemble, under the direction of saxophonist Steven Turner. Friday, July 3, at **Oakland Public Conservatory of Music** (1616 Franklin St.). BBQ served at 6 p.m. $22. OPCMusic.org — *R.S.*

Independence Run

If the parade is a little too stately for you on July 4, get out of your lawn chair and make a run for it. The City of Alameda wraps up its Independence Day celebration with a **5-K R.A.C.E.** (Ralph Appezzato Charity Event, named for a former mayor) that makes room for competitive runners of all ages. The entry fee goes to a variety of local charities, and is the wrap-up for the town's annual march of dancers, high school bands, karate clubs, and service organizations. Those who can't run can walk, and those who don't want to do either can sit back and be grateful that the parade won't end with that guy picking up horse poop as the finale. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at **2416 Park St., Alameda**. AlamedaRACE.com or 510-523-2647 — *Kibby Kleiman*

Kabeezy

Even before Kwik-E-Mart owner Apu Nahasapeemapetilon took his first bullet on *The Simpsons* Americans were already well-aware of South Asian stereotypes. Many a comic has tried impersonating the peppy Indian immigrant who brandishes his engineering degree but drudges away at tech support or behind a convenience store counter. Usually such caricatures seem either unsavory — or demeaning at best. Then there's Kabeezy, a rising, Fremont-based Indo-American comic who gets a pass for mocking his own culture, partly because he sounds charming and self-deprecating, and partly because there's a winking self-irony to all of his race-baiting. Kabeezy is that rare comic who can exploit stereotypes, while making more astute observations about cultural assimilation and identity politics. Fresh from winning the 2009 Rooster T. Feathers Bay Area Stand-Up Competition, Kabeezy will perform at **Tommy T's** (5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton) with Sammy Ko on July 2 through 5. 7, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., $10-$15. TommyTs.com — *R.S.*

Fourth of July Celebration in Jack London Square, With music, food, arts & crafts, and carnival games. For info, visit JackLondonSquare.com or call 510-645-9292 ex. 225. Sat., July 4, free. Jack London Square Pavilion Stage, Jack London Square, Oakland.

Independence Day Family BBQ With ribs, chicken, portobello mushrooms, pasta salad, potato salad, corn on the cob, and dessert. Plus hot dogs and hamburgers for kids. Sat., July 4, 12-6 p.m., $7-$32. Chabot Space & Science Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373, ChabotSpace.org.

July 4th Open Board and [illegible] Raffles with prizes donated by local businesses. Sat., July 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., free. [illegible] Club, 800 Parkside Dr. (at Bay Farm [illegible]), Alameda.

Livermore Area Park and Recreation Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration Family games, a carnival area and [illegible] parade. Sat., July 4, 3 p.m., $3-$15. Robertson Community Park, 3200 Robertson Park Rd., Livermore. 925-373-5700

[illegible] 4th of July [illegible] With a pancake breakfast [illegible] Sat., July 4, free. Martinez Waterfront Park, 115 [illegible] Dr., Martinez.

Old Fashioned 4th of July With children's games, music, tours, a [illegible] parade with prizes, and a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Sat., July 4, 12-4 p.m., free. [illegible] Historic Estate, 2960 Peralta Oaks Ct., Oakland. 925-275-9450, [illegible].org.

KIDS

Bubble Lady Also appearing Tues., July 7, 11 a.m. at [illegible] Branch ([illegible] Telegraph Ave.) & 2 p.m. at [illegible] Branch ([illegible] Fruitvale Ave.); Thurs., July 9, 10:30 a.m. at [illegible] Branch ([illegible] Blvd.). Wed., July 1, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211 (7200 Bancroft Ave.), Oakland. 510-615-5726, OaklandLibrary.org.

Build the Board Tue., July 7, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5727, OaklandLibrary.org.

Let It Be Power Music/Spoken Word Oakland for Girls Online contest sponsored by The Collective Sound Music Academy, operating out of Ex'pression College (for [illegible]), in conjunction with [illegible], to encourage young female musicians (age 12-18) to showcase their original music and poetry. [illegible].com. Through July 9. Ex'pression Center for New Media, 6601 Shellmound St., Emeryville.

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District The district offers children and adult sports teams (including soccer, softball, basketball and volleyball). [illegible] for children of all ages [illegible] in Livermore throughout Livermore. Call 925-960-2400 for more info. [illegible], [illegible]/activities. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore.

Math Help Bring your math homework or questions to the library's tutors. Open to K-12. Saturdays, 2-4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211 (7200 Bancroft Ave.), Oakland. 510-615-5726, OaklandLibrary.org.

Summer Puppet Theater Sing-Along Mitch and Mickey of the National Puppet Theater present a fun and engaging puppet show. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., $4.95 for kids; $2 for each additional sibling, free for adults and children. Sadie Dey's Cafe, 4210 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible], [illegible].com

New Homework [illegible] Free drop-in homework help for students in grades 3-5. Thursdays, 3-5:30 p.m., Mondays, 2-6:30 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, AClibrary.org.

[illegible] for Kids Beginning classes in [illegible] classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of [illegible] Arts, 1034 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-273-2447, [illegible].org.

Peek-a-Book Time Music, finger plays, and picture books for kids ages 1-3. Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Walnut Creek Public Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. 925-646-6773.

Bubble Book Time Flannelboard stories, felt, rhymes, and finger plays for children ages 3-6. Wednesdays, 3 p.m., free. Walnut Creek Public Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. 925-646-6773.

Play [illegible] Children of all ages welcome. Snacks provided. For children with special needs, call 925-249-3823. Daily. Child Care Links, 1020 Serpentine Ln. (Suite 104), Pleasanton. 925-313-2085, ChildCareLinks.org.

Preschool Storytimes: Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Temescal Branch, 5205 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5049

Preschool Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Wednesdays, 11 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

Preschool Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Montclair Branch, 1687 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-7810, OaklandLibrary.org.

Preschool Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Mondays, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Preschool Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Tuesdays, 11 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Brookfield Branch, 9255 Edes Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5725, OaklandLibrary.org.

Preschool Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Elmhurst Branch, 1427 88th Ave., Oakland. 510-615-5727, OaklandLibrary.org.

Sideshow Weekend Celebration of P.T. Barnum with rare artifacts from some of the most famous sideshow performers in history, plus a collection of [illegible]. Thru July 25, $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10979 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

Teen Summer Teens are invited to join this group that reviews library plans, programs, and generally [illegible] Services librarians. Wheelchair accessible. Please do not wear scents to public meetings. To request a sign-language interpreter, real-time captioning, materials in large print or Braille, or other accommodations for these meetings, call 510-981-6100 or TTY 510-548-1240 at least five working days prior. First Tuesday of every month, 4:30-6 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Library, 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Teen Advisory Board Middle [illegible] Wednesday of every month, 3:30-4:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Comic Club For young fans of superhero adventures. Tuesdays, 3:30-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728, OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Time Thursdays Music, video games, and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620, OaklandLibrary.org.

Toddler Storytimes: Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

Toddler Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Piedmont Branch, 160 41st St., Oakland. 510-597-5011, OaklandLibrary.org.

Toddler Storytimes, Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Montclair Branch, 1687 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-7810, OaklandLibrary.org.

Toddler Storytimes: Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays First and Second Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5023, OaklandLibrary.org.

Toddler Storytimes: Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays First and Second Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Video [illegible] Play GameCube and PS2 games. Thu., July 2, 3-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 211 (7200 Bancroft Ave.), Oakland. 510-615-5726, OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild About Books Children's program features stories, music, and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St. (at Shattuck Ave.), Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Wildlife Summer On Saturdays, hear a story and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn nature facts. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m., Sundays, 1:45 p.m., free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Theater/Sports Schedule Grades 6-12 and all under 11 welcome; children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult. Daily, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

More Listings Online
Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings
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SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

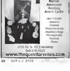
Critical Mass Bike ride through Oakland, free. [illegible].org. First Friday of every month, 6:30 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Free Summer Program: Actividades de Verano Activities include gardening, arts, making movies, history, cooking, bubble exchange and nature. Se habla español. Starting July 7. Tuesdays-Thursdays, 2-5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20, free. Peralta Hacienda Historical Park, 2465 34th Ave., Oakland. 510-532-9142, PeraltaHacienda.org.

Great Summer Power Company Kid's Open Summer Camp Indoor rock-climbing for kids ages 6-14. Se habla español. Oakland. Through Aug. 14, 9 a.m.-noon, $200-250 per week. Great Western Power Company, 520 20th St., Oakland. 510-452-2022.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland A's vs. Seattle Mariners Wed., July 1, 12:35 p.m., $13-$48. McAfee Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com, 510-GO-A'S-BALL, OaklandAthletics.mlb.com. ●



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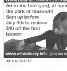

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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the *Express* for more information on East Bay art showings

Spend an evening supporting local arts and win prizes from the *East Bay Express*!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday, July 3rd.

ALAMEDA

Autobody Fine Art
[illegible]

Frank Bette Center
[illegible]

ALBANY

A Different Day Gallery
[illegible] Ave

Albany Arts Gallery
[illegible] Solano Ave

Avalon Glassworks
[illegible] Solano Ave

Café St. Honore
882 San Pablo Ave.

Casa Oaxaca
1266 Solano Ave

Daniel Winkler & Associates
[illegible] Solano Ave

Finders Custom Jewelry
1468 Solano Ave

Five Little Monkey
[illegible] Solano Ave.

Flowerland
[illegible] Solano Ave

Gathering Tribes
[illegible] Ave

Six Degrees on Solano
[illegible] Solano Ave

BERKELEY

Berkeley City College
[illegible] Center St

Berkeley Potters Guild
[illegible] Jones St.

Harmonique Home
1520 Solano Ave

Kala Gallery
[illegible] San Pablo Ave

Kathmandu Restaurant
[illegible] Solano Ave

King Tom Restaurant
[illegible] Solano Ave

Sogno Design Group
[illegible]

Sue Johnson Lamps
[illegible] Solano Ave

Urbanity
[illegible] Solano Ave

EL CERRITO

Eclectix Gallery
[illegible] Ave

Façade Art Gallery
[illegible] Ave.

EMERYVILLE

Periscope Cellars
[illegible] Suite B

OAKLAND

Awaken Café
[illegible]

21 Grand
416 25th St.

Blank Space
6608 San Pablo Ave.

Buzz Gallery
[illegible] Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
[illegible] Grand Ave

The Compound Gallery
6604 San Pablo Ave.

Creative Growth
355 24th St

The Den at the Fox Theater
[illegible] Telegraph Ave

Gasa Arts
[illegible] Telegraph Ave

Five Ten Studio
[illegible] Broadway Ave

Forthrite Gallery
[illegible] San Pablo Ave

FLOAT Gallery
[illegible] Talbot Place #[illegible]

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave

Great Wall of Oakland Backwall on Grand Ave
[illegible]

Hatch
[illegible]

Johansson Projects
[illegible] Telegraph Ave

Lirette
3960 Piedmont Ave.

Lukas Taproom & Lounge
[illegible]

LoBot Gallery
[illegible]

Maniac Gallery
[illegible] 7th St #204

Mercury 20
25 Grand Ave

Mignonne
[illegible] Jefferson St

The Moon
417 25th St

Nonesuch Space
[illegible] Broadway, 2nd Floor

Oakland Art Gallery
[illegible]

Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak St

Oakopolis
447 [illegible]

ProArts
[illegible] Plaza

Red Door Gallery
[illegible]

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
[illegible] Telegraph Ave

Rooz Café
[illegible] Park Blvd.

Rowan Morrison
[illegible]

Swarm Studios & Gallery
[illegible]

Temescal Arts Center
[illegible]

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
[illegible] Ave

RAW Gallery
[illegible] William St

Well
[illegible] Telegraph Ave

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to promotions@eastbayexpress.com to be included in the August directory

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SUBCULTURES
EAST BAY EXPRESS
BEST OF THE EAST BAY
2009

ISSUE DATE: JULY 15, 2009

In the era of social networking, satellite radio, and DIY everything, there is no more mass market. There are only smaller and more numerous subcultures. In *Subcultures*, our 2009 Best of the East Bay, we'll focus on the people, places, companies, and subcultures that make the East Bay so culturally diverse and intellectually rich. From the perfect place to find vegan sweets, to the club DJ who's playing the latest beats, we'll celebrate niche culture in all its glories. Raiders fans. Gaming clans. Rock climbers. Hip-hop rhymers. Obama shrines. Urban wines. Meat eaters. Twitter and Tweeters.

These are the subcultures of the East Bay in 2009.

And they've got a home in Best of the East Bay.

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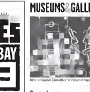
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Detail of Squeak Carnwath's "In Pursuit of Happiness." M. Lee Fatherree

Squeakerama

A painter's life unfolds in Squeak Carnwath retrospective

The art critic and philosopher Arthur Danto characterized art made after Warhol's subversive *Brillo Boxes* as a kind of applied philosophy or epistemology (investigation of knowledge or perception) but embodied in physical objects rather than verbal architecture. Contemporary art's welter of signs and symbols generally confirms this insight, so perplexing is the onslaught at times that we are reminded of the lovingly mocking inventory of dramatic styles in *Hamlet* — "pastoral, comical, historical pastoral, tragical historical, tragical-comical historical pastoral," etc. But life, admittedly, is no less hybrid and contradictory than art. The 81 paintings in **Squeak Carnwath**'s retrospective at the **Oakland Museum of California**, ***Painting Is No Ordinary Object***, explore consciousness, à la Danto, but they're also traditional handmade artifacts that capture the mysterious world of objects and words, sights and sounds, in oil paint. So committed is Carnwath to her medium that she replicates wallpaper/textile patterns and jotted notes on torn scraps of paper, elements eminently collage-ready, in Philip Guston's "colored mud."

Paradoxically, the obvious beauty of these richly colored, heavily worked paintings leads some to underestimate them as mere eye candy, and to misconstrue Carnwath's declarations of aesthetic independence. Fortunately, senior curator **Karen Tsujimoto** and art critic **John Yau** have written illuminating essays for the show's catalog that consider this highly eclectic work from the contradictory viewpoints of its various sources: painting tradition (Rembrandt, Turner, Pollock, Rothko, New Image, graffiti, folk art); post-painterly avant-gardism (conceptualist lists and numbers, minimalist grids, performance art ritual); and Carnwath herself: the child who made laboriously antiqued treasure maps and hid them for strangers to find; the young feminist making installation art about Virginia Woolf and the risks and rewards of creative life; the mature painter preserving in her painted time capsules both borrowed motifs like religious symbols and interesting quotations and "the really boring things, the things that people ignore," both ordinary objects and the mental chatter of all higher primate brains; and the veteran teacher commemorating vanished friends and colleagues — applied philosophy. Carnwath incorporates a wealth of styles and motifs in her work beneath a unifying aesthetic: "Painting is a philosophical enterprise, a kind of alchemy [in which] inert material becomes something else, a document of being, a repository of the human spirit." Her paintings, stream-of-consciousness thought plasmas that are both ethereally optical and physically tangible, celebrate the floating world of phenomena and its no-less-transitory percipients, and affirm the joys and consolations of that alternative spiritual practice, the garage philosophy of art. Through August 23 at the Oakland Museum of California (1000 Oak St., Oakland). MuseumCa.org or 510-238-2200.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

ART GALLERIES

ABCO Blankspace Space. Challenge of Blankspace Community art exhibit commenting on Oakland homicides. Through Dec. 20. 5115 Fibert St., Emeryville. ABCOBlankspace.com

Sculpture Barber Gallery. Jenifer, Oldiden, Oakland. Three Solo Shows Through July 1. 2548 Bancroft Wy. (Berkeley) Berkeley. 549-033-0080.

Bedford Gallery. Full Deck: A Visual History of Skateboard Art Exhibit features more than 400 decks borrowed from artists, skaters, and companies from across the country. Opening reception Thurs., July 9, 6-8 p.m. July 5-Sept. 13. 1601 Civic Dr. (Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts), Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center. Dermalia & Dermolia Group exhibition featuring work by Katie Bauer, Jeannine Briggs, and [illegible] Jeannine Marie. Through July 26. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. Human/Nature: Artists Respond to a Changing Planet Exhibition explores relationship between human communities and the natural world, featuring work by Mark Dion, Ann Hamilton, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Rivane Neuenschwander, Dario Robleto, [illegible] and Xu Bing. Through Sept. 27. 2625 Durant Ave. (UC Berkeley campus), Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Blankspace. Just because there are questions, does not mean there are answers New work by Sam Lopes, Joy Fritz and [illegible]. Closing reception Fri., July 3, 7-10 p.m. Through July 3. 6608 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville. 510-547-6068. BlankspaceGallery.com

Christopher Mellor Gallery. Soft Sculpture Featuring work by Emily Peters. Through July 6. 5329 College Ave., Oakland. 510-255-2052

Cornelia Bell's Black Bottom Gallery. First Friday Series The Cornelia Bell Gallery's First Friday Series features work by Black Bottom [illegible] Marcel Diallo, [illegible] and [illegible]. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m. 1018 Pine St., Oakland. 510-451-4601.

Eclectic Gallery. This Town Group show featuring work by Dion Alexander, Joanna Berkeley, Akela [illegible], Mario Deffey, Paul Gold, [illegible], John Heward, Aaron Johnsen, Larry Jones, Eric Joyner, James Katz, [illegible], Barbara Mitchell, Crystal [illegible], Barbara Robles, Christopher Peterson, [illegible] Rybicki, Andrew Jay Schlussel, John Seabury, Laurie Bowen, [illegible], Cynthia Tom, Peter [illegible], and Katherine Westerhout. Berkeley reception Fri. July 3, 7-10 p.m. July 3-Aug. 16. 10082 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-564-7382. EclecticGallery.com

Float Gallery. What Goes Before: Dennis Jasmine Local artist presents new paintings on records and record covers. [illegible] $100. Through July 18. 1091 Calcot Pl. (#116), Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com

IEAS Townsend Room. Deliver Sky: Unfolding the Art of Mongol Zurag Artist and calligrapher Narmandakh Tsultem adapts a traditional Mongolian aesthetic. Through July 15. 2223 Fulton St., 6th floor, Berkeley. 510-642-2809. IEAS.berkeley.edu

Inferno Gallery. JC Sebbon Solo exhibition of digital prints. Through July 25. 4803 San Leandro St., Oakland. 510-435-4843. InfernoGallery.com

Institute of Mosaic Art. Mosaics of the Mind's Eye & Third Student/Faculty Exhibit Student Mosaic/Mosaic features Mosaics of the Mind's Eye (class taught by Lilian Sizemore), Outdoor Sculpture Mosaics 101, Introduction to Smalti, [illegible], and Renegade Quilting, taught by Madeline Rafeera-England. Through Aug. 30. [illegible] 3001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-9939. InstituteofMosaicArt.com

Johansson Projects. Been Channels Blank by Evan B. Harris and Aadia Wessel. Opening reception Fri., July 3, 6-8 p.m. July 3-Aug. 1. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery. Nocturnal Sunrise Large scale black and white photography exhibition by Philip Ringler. Through July 18. 2956 San Pablo Ave. (2nd floor), Berkeley. 510-649-0499

PICKS

Perceive & Connect

Katie Baum, Jeanine Briggs and **Indira Martina Morre** are exhibiting color photographs, assemblages, and paintings, respectively, at **Berkeley Art Center**. Baum's color photographs are lyrical and trance: a lapping pool shimmer covered with leaves visually links depths, surface, and sky while ice-cream slabs melt on a hot curb and doughnuts lie in a shallow stream like stepping stones or life preservers. Briggs crafts surreal figures from recycled wood, leather, and metal; her life-sized, leather-toned figures have an erotic vibe despite their mythological titles (drill, baby, drill — Earth Mother?); the smaller, more intimate [illegible] pieces suggest [illegible] tools, fossils, and [illegible] for a visionary architecture. Morre's layered works on gesso-glazed [illegible] over panel feature galaxies of hand-drawn Wingding-like elements — asterisks, circles, dots, squares, clock dials, map pins — hovering at different visual 'depths' — floating signifiers in earth orbit, space junk? *Perceive & Connect* runs through July 26 at **Berkeley Art Center** (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). BerkeleyArtCenter.org or 510-644-6893. — *DeWitt Cheng*

JC Garrett

Marketing mavens first joined political campaigns in the 1960s, and forty years later we now enjoy the seamless integration between messages selling us soap, sex, snobbery, salvation, and security. Huxley's consumerist paradise of feelies, orgy-porgy, and centrifugal bumble-puppy (i.e., entertainment, sex and sports) makes the earlier, sinister Orwellian reality of Empire. **JC Garrett**'s colorful digital prints combine commercial visual flair with anything satire; his formerly cheery 1960s montage style pilloried Bush, Cheney, and Rice in recent years to good effect. Here, pondering possible eco-collapse due to human stupidity, he limns new exemplars of what he terms "the human epidemic:" the flirtatious, vacuous Palin surrounded by voluptuous feline outlaws and leering wolves; a former Nazi who now is saved, and seven or seventy stooges; Brezhnev, Mugabe and Fujimori, and, ringed by starlet sex bombs and six-pointed student stars, the pious man of the people and shoot (déjà vu!) Ahmadinejad. Through July 25 at **Inferno Gallery** (4401 San Leandro St., Oakland). InfernoGallery.com or 415-336-6831. — *D.C.*

Katie Baum's

Emergent Sea

Sea turtles in Oakland? No, but a mural of one, at least, by Dan Fontes, Caroline Stern, and James Simpson, has just been dedicated. It's on the Kanda Metal Works building (970 23rd Ave.) where Calcot Place ends, near the Cotton Mills Studios. Painted with the assistance of Girls, Inc. under a grant from the City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency, the Kanda turtle reminds us that the ecological emergency is linked to our current economic straits. Humans have caused many extinctions by overexploiting natural resources, and now even the noble ancient order of Chelonians, 200 million years old, is endangered by modernity — by fishing nets, boats, jet skis, oil spills, and the billions of synthetic jellyfish we excrete into our oceans yearly — i.e., plastic garbage. As you whiz north on 880 past 23rd Avenue in your fossil-powered stone car (or something decidedly less carbon-centric), take a safe quick look, and consider adapting. What would clever monkeys do? 510-593-4574. — *D.C.*

Rigging the Weather

Kristina Lewis explores the sculptural possibilities of common household objects like duct tape, drinking straws, zippers, needles, and magnifying glasses, transmuting them into oddly satisfying assemblages rich with suggestion. For this site-specific installation, she reassembled broken black umbrellas into a large central structure (or personage) accompanied by four smaller companions. She bundled the aluminum ribs into sprays that suggest palm fronds, windshield wipers, or rakes, or shrimps and spiders. She sewed the nylon wedges into large black flowers or anemones that float above the spokes like hot air parade balloons above their tiny handlers. A game board composed of birch plywood triangles fits the lobby floor tiles perfectly, integrating these strange puppets into their lobby environment. Richard Tuttle's polygonal cloth wall pieces come to mind, as do George Rickey's swaying metal caliper arms or [illegible] rigs, but the [illegible], batty humor here belongs to Lewis. Through July 31 at **Oakland Museum Sculpture Court** (1111 Broadway, Oakland). MuseumCA.org/satellite or 510-238-6834. — *D.C.*

[illegible] gallery.

K Gallery. Convergent Waves Wood, by Kim [illegible] and Beau Bragg. Through July 5, free. 2513 Blanding Ave. (at Rythmix Cultural Works), Alameda. 510-845-5080. Rythmix.org.

Lundin Gallery. Pioneers in Art: A Student Exhibition Exhibit featuring advanced sculpture students from Cal State East Bay. Through July 15. 3800 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge. Black Dog Arts and Craft Collective and a crafts bazaar with work by local artists. Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30, free. 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Mercury 20 Gallery. Wood and WoodLand Paintings featuring work by Mary Curtis Ratcliff and Anne Vaughan (Wood and Water), and Lilie Alvarado, Aaron Cotton, Kathleen King, John Wood (Plein-air). Opening reception: Fri. July 3 from 6-9 p.m. (in conjunction with Oakland Art Murmur). July 3-Aug. 1. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-701-4620.

Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch. Tattoo of Grace [illegible] Bella presents acrylic, mixed-media, collage, and experimental works. July 1-30. 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Oakopolis Creativity Collects. Painting from a Deep Heart [illegible] Jones brings the work of master painter Leigh Hyams, together with Greg Murphy, Katy Stockman, Logan Payne, Sally [illegible], Eve Lyon, John Wood, and [illegible] Camp, joined by [illegible] Parsons in July. Art Murmur reception: July 3, 7:00-10:00 p.m. Through July 11. 447 25th St., Oakland.

Red Door Gallery. Shedding Featuring installations by Kimberley Cunningham and Yvonne Lamble-Stephens. July 3-31. 418 26th St., Oakland.

Richmond Art Center. Inventing a Future: Roberts and Mackinnon Watercolors, colored pencil drawings, and installations by [illegible] Webb, Clayton Bailey and Betty Bailey. Through July 18. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond. 510-620-6772. TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

Rowan Morrison Gallery. The Logic Flood and State: New Work Solo exhibition of graphite works on paper by Steven [illegible]. Through July 17. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Sacred Deep Tattoo / 1987 Gallery. [illegible] and The Art of HNK Ryder Art informed by comic books, cartoons, and punk rock, specifically the scene there. Through July 31. 1726 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-1988. [illegible].com.

ESTUARY
ART
ATTACK

Second Fridays

July 10th from 6pm - 9pm
Visit Alameda and Jingletown Galleries

Participating Galleries

4:20 Gallery
420 Petersen St.

Institute of Mosaic Art
3001 Chapman St.

Ford Street Studios &
Fernando Reyes #26
Hue Yang #6
Jason Dunn #6
2934 Ford St.

Float Art Gallery
1091 Calcot Place #118

Ave.Inferno Gallery
4401 San Leandro St.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts
1601 Paru St.

Bridgehead Studio
2516 Blanding Ave.

K Gallery at Rythmix Cultural Works
2513 Blanding Ave.

Autobody Fine Art
1517 Park St.

Bridgland Studios Gallery
2254 1/2 Santa Clara Ave.

Forrealism Studios
2527 Clement Ave.

Guerrero Glass Studio
2527 Clement Ave.

Lucky Juju Pinball Museum
713 Santa Clara

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Culina

For map of event locations and more info
go to: www.estuaryartattack.com

M&G

Swarm Studios + Gallery. Is A Comedy Onto The Milk? Video installation by Andrea Goldman. Through Aug. 2. 560 2nd St. (#4), Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmStudios.net.

The Compound. Anatomies Art by Kali Mantia-Bartell on emotional and physical effects of medical experiences, plus Adrian Van Allen's works exploring the intersection of science and technology. July 3-Aug. 3. 6604 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-655-9008. TheCompoundGallery.com.

True Gallery. *Crème del La Crème: Between Pink* Exhibition and workshop by Warren Mackintosh. Through July 3. 1822 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-540-8729. TrueGallery.com.

We Mosaicon: Paint by Medium Group Show Contributing artists include Sean Negley, Jennifer Dipaney, Tiggi Yarak, [illegible] Corbin, and Cornelia Levin. Opening reception Sat., July 5, 5-8 p.m. with Zach Houston and Poetic Tennis Bus. July 5-26. 368 40th St., Oakland. WeArtSpace.com.

MUSEUMS

USS Hornet Museum. Naval Soldiers Exhibition Photos and memorabilia telling the story of the naval (second-generation Japanese-American) troops who fought in the 16 in WWII. Daily. **USS Avenger WWII** torpedo bomber restored by volunteers. Daily. Pier 3 Alameda Point, Alameda. 510-521-8448 ext. 249. USSHornet.org.

Berkeley Art Museum. Galaxy: A Hundred or So Stars Visible to the Naked Eye Through Aug. 30. **Deborah Grant: Bedlam, Egg, Toast Is Lost/Matrix 206** Solo exhibition curated by Phyllis Wattis fellow features several shared paintings on panel, a sound component created by artist Jennie C. Jones, and a twenty-eighty conference painting called *Suicide Notes to the Self*. Through Nov. 11. 2625 Durant Ave., UC Berkeley campus. **Painting** 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Chabot Space & Science Center. The Good Leap: A Moon Memory Hands-on exhibit allows participants to Moon-walk, try on a space helmet, climb into a Mercury capsule, and land a lunar module. Through Dec. 31. $10.95-$14.95. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotSpace.org.

Habitot Children's Museum. Shell Game The ongoing exhibition of Roger Goldenberg's painting, *Shell Game: The Big O's vs. The Missing Pieces*. Daily. **Back to the Farm** Interactive exhibit shows where food comes from: having children [illegible] apples, collect eggs in the log and barn, see a "tease" fish in the pond, and build with [illegible] haybales. Through Sept. 05. 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Institute of Mosaic Art. California Mosaic Artists: Celebrating Diversity through Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily. **Woofer Art: Pet Portraiture** A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. 3001 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-437-9889. InstituteMosaicArt.com.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. Reflections Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival, documentary, and ephemeral films. Daily. **Memory Lab** Interactive installation where visitors can create digital family albums and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memorabilia. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles. As the Century Turns: The World of the 1890s Museum displays of garments, linens, and laces in natural settings, plus Ellen Thompson's sun-headed dolls from the turn of the century. Through Aug. 3. **As the Century Turns** Exhibit features scenes of daily life from the Belle Epoch with an emphasis on period costumes. Through Aug. 1. 2982 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-843-7290. LacisMuseum.org.

Lawrence Hall of Science. Grossology Sylvia Branzei's children's series centers on blood-sucking, slime-oozing, skin-producing, vomit-drinking critters. Through Sept. 1. **Science on a Sphere (SOS)** New permanent exhibit features an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $8-$11. **Animal Grossology** Sylvia Branzei's children's series centers on blood-sucking, dookie-eating, gas-producing, vomit-drinking critters. Through Sept. 1. **& Ken Burgmann Permanent Museum** Presenting strange [illegible] insects from around the globe. Wed., July 8, 12,20 & 2 p.m. $8-$11. Centennial Dr. (below the UC Berkeley campus and below Grizzly Peak Blvd.), Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Mills College Art Museum. Intersections: Prints of the 1913 Kanto Earthquake [illegible] special exhibition curated by Deborah Stein and the Mills College Museum Workshop. Through Aug. 2. 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-430-2164.

Oakland Museum of California. Future of Between: Sustaining Parklands in the 21st Century Photographs by Jeff Jones and prose by retired National Park interpretive ranger William C. Tweed. Through Aug. 23. **The Danzón Presents: From Tango to the Present** Tracing the history and culture of Mexican danzón, brought to Mexico in the 1500s. Exhibit covers the story of tango, a [illegible] slave dance, the Mexican history to 1810, the Mexican War of Independence, and 19th-century issues [illegible]. Through Aug. 23. **Squeak Carnwath: Painting Is No Ordinary Object** Comprehensive survey featuring more than 40 of Carnwath's paintings. Through Aug. 23. **First Fridays After Five** Bay Area bands and cash bar until 8 p.m., plus gallery and special event access. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Free w/ museum admission. **The Afro-Mexican Presence in Film** Screenings of *The Forgotten Root/La Raíz Olvidada* by Rafael Rebollar Corona (Spanish with English subtitles), and *The Third Root* by Fred Hubert and Camilla Ru, plus commentary by Jesus Chavez [illegible]. Fri., July 3, 7 p.m. $5-$8. **Squeak Carnwath: Painting Is No Ordinary Object** Docent-led tour of the current Squeak Carnwath exhibition. Sun., July 5, 2 p.m. $5-$8. 1000 Oak St. (at 10th St.), Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Museum Sculpture Garden. Oakland Sound installation by Joseph del Pesco and Helene Kenfert. Through Oct. 1. Oakland Museum of California at City Center, 1301 12th St., Oakland. 510-238-6836. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Museum of California at City Center. The Art and History of Early California Exploring the story of California from Native American times to the Gold Rush Days. $5-$8. 1301 12th St., Oakland. 510-238-6836. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Museum of California at City Center. Sculpture Court. Rigging the Between Kristina Lewis presents sculptures made of household objects. Through July 31. 1111 Broadway, Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collections: a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus [illegible] in Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native California Cultures** This visible storage exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collection of native Californian cultures. Daily. Kroeber Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Art, Bastard and Beyond: The Painting and Sculpture Collection Focus from the museum's holdings, including work by Kahlo, Mendieta, Rauschenberg, Rivera, Diebenkorn, et al. Daily. **Picturing Modernity: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, photos by Adams, Cunningham, Evans, Lange, Stieglitz, et al. Daily. **The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture, graphic design, and industrial design. Daily. **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Sculpture Collection** Large-scale installations and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily. 151 3rd St., San Francisco. 415-357-4000. SFMoMA.org. ■

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Photo by Carle Fanti

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THEATER

MAN ABOUT TOWN

Kenny Yun reveals the truth behind his *Lettuce Town Lies*, while Moshe Kasher plays dead at SF Punch Line

By Rachel Swan

Kenny Yun does a great job imitating those who surrounded him, but is less charismatic portraying himself.

Autobiographical one-man shows are perhaps the easiest form of theater to produce, and the hardest to do well. It's a genre that requires the performer to have a screwed-up, dysfunctional childhood that can somehow be rendered in an upbeat, jokey way. The challenge, then, is to tell one's story in an un-solipsistic way, and elicit audience sympathy without veering into melodrama. Don Reed walked that fine line in *East 14th: Tales of a Reluctant Player* and Joe Orrach came close with *In My Corner*. Now, Korean-American comedian Kenny Yun has entered the fray with *Lettuce Town Lies*, a play about growing up gay in Salinas, California, at San Francisco's Marsh Theatre. It's a decent, well-crafted show that could become a great show once Yun matures as an actor.

At present, Yun's childhood is the best thing he has going for him. It's a story that lends itself to the stage: After his family moves to a mostly white neighborhood in Salinas (aka Lettuce Town, aka "John Steinbeck territory"), young Kenny had to contend with being both Korean American and gay in an area dominated by white bigots. He cruised around on a skateboard blasting Donna Summers on his headphones, smoked Marlboro Ultra Light 100s, and used his mom's curling iron to mold his hair into something that recalled "Connie Chung with an Adam's Apple." Despite having all the cards stacked against him, Yun tried as best he could to fit in, acting genuinely surprised when he got picked last for basketball or accused of walking like a girl. His life became a funny and painful game of deception.

The best thing about *Lettuce Town Lies* is the writing. Yun revels in all the cute, girly details of growing up gay in Hicksville: The Easy-Bake Oven carton he stowed under his mattress, the disco 45s he bought from an "underground dealer," his crushes on the boy's basketball team, all of whom resembled the Greek God Perseus. Some parts are hilarious, particularly when Yun has to grapple with stereotypes. He responds to one kid's racial slurs with a pretty harsh slam of his own ("Hey, ham honky on cracker donkey face") and poked fun at teachers who categorized all Asians as being whizzes in math and science ("Of course I got good grades in algebra ... by copying off the Chinese kid.") Yun also takes obvious pleasure in imitating the various people who populated his insular world: The English teacher who lectured on iambic pentameter, the fag hag girlfriend who said "like" about every third word, the strapping but unreachable friend Scotty, with whom he shared many a homoerotic moment.

Show Info

Lettuce Town Lies plays at the Marsh San Francisco (1062 Valencia St.) through July 25, 8 p.m., $15-$20. TheMarsh.org

Moshe Kasher performs Tuesday, July 7, at San Francisco's Punch Line Comedy Club (444 Battery St.), 8 p.m., $15. MosheKasher.com

In fact, the least-developed character in *Lettuce Town Lies* is Yun himself. He has no distinct mannerisms, other than a tendency to overuse his hands (an excess body movement characteristic of fledgling actors). He's overly trusting of a gay camp counselor who becomes an instant spiritual guide. He relies on crude purple metaphors, and makes continual references to Greek and Korean myths that don't really fit with the story. Eighty minutes with no intermission is quite a long time to spend with a single actor, and you expect to emerge with a very clear sense of that person's story and that person's persona. In this case you get one without the other — a guy with a lot of inner turmoil who seems less charismatic than the people who surround him. *Lettuce Town Lies* draws back the curtain on Yun's interior world, but doesn't allow much access to Kenny Yun the character.

Meanwhile, another rising comedian will bring his brand of sardonic, self-deprecating humor to San Francisco's Punch Line. Oakland's Moshe Kasher, who left the bay last fall to launch his career in Los Angeles, will return on Tuesday, July 7, for a hometown CD release party. Kasher's new album has a big, clunky mouthful of a title: *Everyone You Know Is Going to Die and Then You Are! * Unless You Die First*. It's designed as a posthumous release, with Kasher doing bits from the crypt. (Don't worry, he's not actually dead.) Fellow comedians Emily Heller and Eric Cash play his widow and bastard son, respectively; Greg Edwards and Brent Weinbach also make cameos. Like the rest of Kasher's material, it's best characterized as "high-brow concept, lowbrow execution."

Kasher will feature his album guests at the release party, but he promises not to repurpose any CD material during his live sets. That might in fact be the best reason to check out the show. "My thing is that I've always been really reluctant to sell people the set that they've just watched me do at a club," he said. "It's like, 'Thank you for your money, now listen to me do the whole thing again.'" Such forethought is much appreciated. ●

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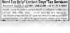

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THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Alice in Wonderland Jr. Cast of 50 drawn from Civic Arts Education's Youth Theater Company perform the musicalized of Lewis Carroll's fairy tale. Thu.-Sat., July 2, 3 & 7 p.m. $10-$12. Bedrosian Art Center, 181 North Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. 925-943-5842.

East 14th Street: True Tales of a Reluctant Player Don Reed's autobiographical one-man show growing up with his hustler father in Seventies-era East Oakland. Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 8:30 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through July 18. $20-$35. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. (between 21st and 22nd sts.), San Francisco.

Husband for the Weekend **and *Bathroom Graffiti Queen*** One-act plays by lawyer Barbara Payne, directed by Marvin X and Opal Palmer Adisa. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 25. $15. Sister Thea Bowman Memorial Theater, 920 Peralta St., Oakland. 510-386-1312.

Jack Goes Boating Bay Area premiere of Bob Glaudini's romantic comedy about a slacker who recruits two friends to help him get a girl. Directed by Joy Carlin. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m. Continues through July 19. $28-$42. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

Lady Susan World premiere of Christine U'Ren's stage adaptation of the lone Austen novel. Starting July 2, Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Continues through July 26. $15-$25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-7800. BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Lady Windermere's Fan [illegible] Oscar Wilde's [illegible] comedy [illegible]. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through July 4. $18. Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Pl., Richmond. 510-232-4031. Masquers.org.

The Play's the Thing [illegible] presents four staged readings of works by Oakland playwrights Judith Offer, Jay Cline, and Jude Rainbow and one by emerging writer Maude Shaw who just graduated from Oakland Technical High School. Fri., July 3, 7:30 p.m. $5-$8. [illegible] Theater of California (Oak and 10th sts.), Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Stagebridge Theatre Company's 30th Anniversary Showcase — Comedy Night: "All the World's a Stage" Julian Lopez-Morillas presents material from his one-man show *Sleep to Wake*, plus *The Memoirs* [illegible]. For info, call 510-444-4755 or visit Stagebridge.org. Tue., July 7, 8 p.m. $15-$25. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. ShotgunPlayers.org.

Thoroughly Modern Millie Karen A.C. Carillo directs the Contra Costa Civic Theatre production about a small-town girl trying to stake out her future in New York City. With music directed by Joe Simiele and choreography by Liz Caffrey. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 19. $15-$24. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132. CCCT.org.

Thoroughly Modern Millie Karen A.C. Carillo directs the Contra Costa Civic Theatre production about a young woman trying to stake out her future in New York City. With music directed by Joe Simiele and choreography by Liz Caffrey. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 19. $15-$24. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132. CCCT.org.

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Thoroughly Modern Millie Karen A.C. Carillo directs the Contra Costa Civic Theatre musical about a young woman trying to stake out her future in New York City. With music directed by Joe Simiele and choreography by Liz Caffrey. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through July 19. $15-$24. Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-524-9132. CCCT.org.

Comedy for Cadet Aurora Theatre Company's Education Director Michael Mansfield [illegible] script reading and [illegible]. Mon., July 6, 7:30 p.m. Free. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Uni Salsa Mode Beginning and intermediate [illegible] lessons, plus a live [illegible] performance by a [illegible] every week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $30; $5 students. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

Salosa' Aikun Hai: A Celebration of Tahitian Song and Dance Featuring performances by [illegible] and [illegible] Kaulahelelua Polynesian Dance Company and members of Hiro's Tahitian dance workshops. Sun., July 5, 2 p.m. Free. [illegible] 730 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2606. Mahea.com.

LIVE VARIETY

Down to Earth 1917 silent film screens with shorts *Don't Shove* (1919, Rolin) and *Never Touched Me* (1919) [illegible]. Sat., July 11, 7:30 p.m. $5. Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, 37417 Niles Blvd., Fremont. 510-494-1411.

Live Comedy Show w/ [illegible]. Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m. Free. Wilhelmina Bar, 480 Webster St., Oakland. 510-451-3811. [illegible]

Musical Mondays With live music, cocktails, and board games — including Scrabble, chess, pick-up-sticks, and Candy Land. At Paint Tree Place right outside Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon. Mondays, 5:30-8 p.m. Continues through July 27. Free. Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, 48 Webster St., Oakland.

Temescal Street Cinema Movies by local filmmakers projected on the side of the Bank of the West building. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Continues through July 16. Free. Temescal Neighborhood, 49th St. at Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Waterfront Flicks Cinema shows screenings at the Jack London [illegible] from the new Jack London Market Building. Plus trivia and [illegible]. For info, visit JackLondonSquare.com. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 20. Free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St. (foot of Broadway), Oakland. 510-877-5870. JackLondonSquare.com.

COMEDY

Comedy Night [illegible]. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco. 415-861-3662. [illegible]

Comedy Off Broadway With a rotating cast of comedians featured on HBO, Comedy Central, Late Night Shows. For info, visit ComedyOffBroadwayOakland.com. Fridays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $10. Washington Inn, 495 10th St., Oakland. 510-452-1776.

Comedy Storm hosted by Rinky the Rock God with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m. $10. Rockit Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco. 415-387-6344. Rockit-Room.com.

Sundays & Happy July 1-3, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., July 3, 9:30 p.m.; Sat., July 5, 7 p.m. $10-$18. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 [illegible] Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Magic & More w/ [illegible]. Feel [illegible] an intimate theatre performance of magic and comedy games. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $10. Off-Market Theater, Stage 250 (965 Mission St.), San Francisco. 415-646-0776.

Comedy Night Mic w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College students. Tuesdays, 9-10 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Comedy Allies Showcase w/ rotating acts. Fridays, 9 p.m. $12-$15. http://www.sfcomedycollege.com/. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

SF Punch Anthem Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

Open Day Show rotating acts. Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Loren Saap Theatre Comedy A Comedy showcase of [illegible]. First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $7-$10. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St. (at Telegraph Ave.), Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

Thursday Night Fling w/ rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. www.sfcomedycollege.com. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Technical Difficulties Regrets A vaudevillian game show-style [illegible] and poetry slam hosted by Jamie [illegible] and [illegible]. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. $7-$12. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

PICKS

East 14th Street: True Tales of a Reluctant Player

Don Reed could have easily turned his autobiography into a melodrama, an [illegible] story with [illegible]. All of the elements are there: [illegible] father and fragile, penniless mother; the Bible-thumping stepfather who cancels Christmas and makes everyone convert to a religion "that rhymes with 'Tehova's Shmitnesses'"; the brother who is a lady's man, and the other brother who "wants to be a lady." Combine that with the gritty environment of East Oakland in the 1970s, and you have a story that is already wonderful on its face. But Reed made it even better in his new one-man show *East 14th Street: True Tales of a Reluctant Player* by turning his childhood tragedies into side-splitting comedy. Using a sparse stage set and an era-appropriate funk soundtrack, he flits around the stage, doing spot-on imitations of his family and all the strange characters who populated that world. He takes people who could easily be objects of derision (pimps, prostitutes, religious zealots, and all forms of low-class criminals), and makes them endearing. To watch that alchemy onstage is nothing short of amazing. Through July 18 at the Marsh (1062 Valencia St., San Francisco). $25-$50. TheMarsh.org — *Rachel Swan*

Jack Goes Boating.

David Allen

Jack Goes Boating

Buoyed by a fast paced, quippy script and [illegible] that [illegible] another, Bob Glaudini's 2007 play *Jack Goes Boating* is formatted like a sitcom, but without the laugh track. The setting is modern New York City, a world populated by aggressive strivers like Jack and Lucy, who apply their work ethic to everything from limo-driving to selling bereavement seminars, to tai-chi swim lessons. Into this world walks sweet, lovable Jack, a slacker whose Rastafarian cassette tapes and white-person dreadlocks mark him as an interloper. Nonetheless, Jack is looking for love — and he finds it in jittery Connie, a woman whose manic frailties include an acute phobia of men. The two seem perfect for each other. Aurora Theatre's rendition of the play, directed with verve by Joy Carlin, is an *Annie Hall*-style romance that's as much about modernity and alienation as it is about finding a soul mate. Actors Amanda Duarte (playing Lucy) and Gabriel Marin (Clyde) are hilarious as the play's bickering married couple, but even they are bested by Danny Wolohan, whose big-eyed, vacuous stare and plodding movements make him a perfect, believable Jack. Through July 19 at **Aurora Theatre** (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). $28-$42. AuroraTheatre.org. — *R.S.*

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LECTURES & LIT

Trouble's A-Brewin'

Kate Christensen assesses BFFs.

Sex is lots of things to lots of people, and sometimes — just sometimes — it leads to trouble. In **Kate Christensen**'s new novel, fortysomething married-with-child Manhattan psychotherapist Josie realizes while flirting casually with a man at a party that she aches to unhitch from her husband. Meanwhile the media is savaging her best college pal, indie rock star Raquel, for sleeping with a much younger man whose partner is pregnant. And that's why its title is *Trouble*.

Inspiration for the book came to Brooklyn-based Christensen during a 2006 visit to Mexico City. "Walking around the city, hanging out in cantinas, hearing music, going to art openings, I was struck by the idea of two longtime middle-aged female friends, both in a lot of trouble in their lives, meeting in Mexico City to offer each other moral support, escape, and a return to their lost, younger selves," says the author, who will be at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Thursday, July 2.

Kate Christensen

That sprawling sea of cars, curio shops, and cathedrals seemed the perfect setting for such a story because in both looks and spirit it's light years away from slick Manhattan and also from Los Angeles, which Christensen describes as a realm of "eternal youth, celebrity culture, and life in the public eye." By contrast, "Mexico City is a Catholic, colonial, vast city built on Aztec ruins; it is a place of both elemental ever-present death and wild, untrammeled life. Things happen in Mexico City; both life and death are constant and powerful there. It's a very good place to go to shake something loose, to overcome psychic stasis or paralysis."

With crucifixes everywhere you look, Mexico City brings up memories — and actual guilt — for Catholic-school alumnae Josie and half-Latina Raquel. Assessing their present and past and the shifting meanings of intimacy in their lives, the pair cannot help but reveal the fits and starts of their own long bond. Writing about female friendship appealed to Christensen, whose previous novel *The Great Man* won a 2008 PEN/Faulkner Award, "because of a very painful misunderstanding I had had with my own best friend, a rift that, once healed, brought to my consciousness the fact that there are no formal codified structures for female friendship, no commitment or breakup ceremonies, no structures in place for intervention during times of crisis, such as friendship therapy." (*Now there's* a worthy career choice for psych majors.) "Close female friendship is a relationship that often goes as deep as, or deeper than, marriage or family, but which has no rights or rules. I wanted to write about this in a direct, visceral, emotional way."

Each of Christensen's novels, she says, "has begun as the idea of a character, developed into a distinct narrative voice, and unfolded from there: I hear them talking, and then I allow them to start narrating their story through me. Not channeling exactly — more like taking on a persona." 7 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com

— Anneli Rufus

LECTURES

artiFACTS The monthly lecture series for collectors takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m., $5-$7. Auctions by the Bay Theater, Alameda Point, Naval Air Station (Alameda Point), 2700 Saratoga St., Alameda. 510-740-9720. AuctionsbytheBay.com.

Cuba Solidarity speaker: Steve [illegible] Lecturing on the [illegible]. Wed., July 1, 7-9 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

El Salvador: I Want My People to Live Film screening and discussion about progress in El Salvador. Wed., July 8, 7:30 p.m., $8-$10. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Facebook, Privacy and Filtering Social networking workshop explains Facebook's privacy and filtering features, with special attention to business and fan pages. Mon., July 6, 5:30-7 p.m., $5-$15. TechLiminal, 268 14th St., presents. 510-832-3401.

Successful Job Search in Hard Times with Walidah Andrews Mon., July 6, 5:30-7:45 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, presents. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

LITERARY EVENTS

Formation of the Past Digital storytelling station invites people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8000. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Discussion: Civil Commitments, Leadership, Stalin, and the Experience of Socialist Society Tue., July 7, 7 p.m., free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196.

Pack the 4th Sale Hundreds of titles [illegible] $1-$5. Fri., July 3, 4-10 p.m., free. AK Press Warehouse, 674-A 23rd St., Oakland. 510-208-1700.

Golden Gate Writers Writers workshop facilitated by Madelyn Jean. Mon., July 6, 6-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5023. OaklandLibrary.org.

Jewelry Making with [illegible] Robinson Tue., July 7, 7 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017. OaklandLibrary.org.

Kate Christensen Discussing and signing copies of *Trouble*. Thu., July 2, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Magic by Andrew Tue., July 7, 3 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 4887 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-5623. OaklandLibrary.org.

Middle East [illegible] Call Noah Robbins at 510-803-2547 for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. [illegible] Neighborhood Center, 570 [illegible] Park Ave., Oakland.

New eBook Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features include an online reference librarian, catalogue and database access, search box, pull-down menus, and links. Daily, presents Public Library Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

Poetry Flash with Charles Entrekin & Mary Mackey Sun., July 5, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Preschool Storytimes: Stories, Songs, and Finger Plays for Children Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-5623. OaklandLibrary.org.

Puppet Art [illegible] Presenting "Tale of the Dragon's Tail." Tue., July 7, 6 p.m., free. [illegible] Public Library César Chávez Branch, 3301 E. 12th St. (at the Fruitvale Transit Village), presents. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Read Aloud Book Club Thu., July 2, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Eastmont Branch, Eastmont Town Center, Suite 213 (7200 Bancroft Ave.), presents. 510-615-5726. OaklandLibrary.org.

UC Berkeley Extension Writers tackle their work Wed., July 1, 7 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Within: a Femmethology Readings by contributors Amy André, Sherilyn Connelly, Kimberly Dark, Daphne Gottlieb, Alex [illegible], and Alisa [illegible]. Sat., July 5, 6 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-1320. PegasusBookstore.com.

[illegible] 4th of July: Anti-4th Poetry Event Sat., July 4, 7 p.m., free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196.

[illegible] Writer [illegible] presents his new book *[illegible]*. Wed., July 8, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

PICKS

Charles Entrekin and Mary Mackey

In **Charles Entrekin**'s novel *Red Mountain, Birmingham, Alabama, 1965*, a young couple struggle to embody radical ideals in the conservative American South. In **Mary Mackey**'s forthcoming novel *The Widow's War*, women fight against slavery during the Civil War. Presented by *Poetry Flash*, the authors discuss their work at **Diesel** (5433 College Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, July 5. 3 p.m., free. DieselBookstore.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Dog Day Thursday

During the summer break, kids can slip behind in their reading practice. Reading Education Assistance Dogs want to help. In the Children's Room of the **Albany Library** (1247 Marin Ave., Albany) on Thursday, July 2 (as on every "**Dog Day Thursday**" all summer), kids in grades one through five can read aloud to these patient, attentive, specially trained pups. 3 p.m., free. ACLibrary.org — *A.R.*

Frederick Douglass Day/Alternative Fourth of July

Rather than celebrate [illegible], **Frederick Douglass Day/Alternative Fourth of July** on Friday, July 3, at the **Oakland Public Conservatory of Music** (1616 Franklin St., Oakland) features drumming, singing, a barbecue, and activist Cesar A. Prenado-Cruz reading his book *Revenge of the "Illegal Alien": A Mexican Takes on the Empire*. 6 p.m., $10. OPCMusic.org — *A.R.*

Charles Entrekin

Golden Gate Writers

Why let all those books in the libraries and bookshops be authored by other people and not you? At the **Golden Gate Branch of the Oakland Public Library** (5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland), writer Madelyn Jean facilitates the bimonthly **Golden Gate Writers Group**, which meets on Monday, July 6. Open to all, the group encourages feedback and sharing. 6 p.m., free. OaklandLibrary.org — *A.R.*

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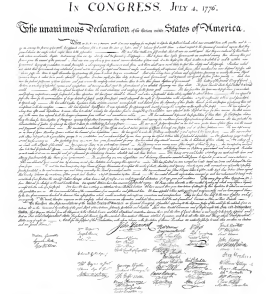

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Mike Esmailzadeh

In 1976, a twelve-year-old boy emigrated to California from the other side of the world. Beset with dangers, he sought strength in martial arts. It saved his life.

In 1926, a sixteen-year-old boy emigrated to Hawaii from the other side of the world. Beset with dangers, he sought strength in martial arts. It saved his life.

The first boy was Mike Esmailzadeh. Not Iranian by heritage, he was born in Germany. After his parents divorced when he was four, his mother married an Iranian; the family promptly moved to Iran. By the time they moved again, this time to Los Angeles, Esmailzadeh spoke his adoptive stepfather's Farsi and his mother's German, but not much else.

"I didn't know anything, I didn't know anyone, and I couldn't really speak English," says Esmailzadeh. Martial arts doesn't require a lot of language skills, so he enrolled in classes. "Suddenly I felt that I had someone to turn to." And he was acquiring skills that would prove even more useful over the next few years as the Iranian revolution raged overseas and his family, like many Iranians in Los Angeles at that time, became the targets of taunts and aggression.

Both inside and out, "martial arts saved my life," Esmailzadeh says resolutely. Vowing to "give back to others what I got out of it," he founded **Suigetsukan** (1103 International Blvd., Oakland), a nonprofit dojo or school whose five-session **Martial Arts Day Camp** for kids ages six through fifteen starts on Monday, July 6. Suigetsukan is a nonprofit, so all classes and workshops "have a sliding scale that goes down to zero." The day camp costs $50 to $100 for those who can afford it; for anyone else, it's free. At least half of the students who train at Suigetsukan pay nothing at all.

Esmailzadeh's impressive rankings include Rokudan in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, the martial arts style that will be the day camp's main focus. Encompassing an array of techniques including throws, chokes, strikes, joint locks, and breaks, it also features an escape component: When survival's at stake, sometimes running away is the best self-defense.

Danzan Ryu Jujitsu was developed by that *other* immigrant youth, the one in Hawaii. Born in Japan, Henry Seishiro Okazaki was living in Hilo when he was diagnosed with incurable tuberculosis. Defying that fate, the youth enrolled in martial-arts classes. His lungs improved. Assembling techniques from various styles including Okinawan karate and Filipino knife-work, Okazaki soared to fame. He spent the next thirty years touring the world, founding dojos, and establishing a Honolulu sanatorium for patients with neurological disorders.

Esmailzadeh admires Okazaki, who died in 1951. "He was one of the first people to open up martial arts to non-Japanese students. So his schools were the first of what we *now* consider modern public martial arts schools, open to anyone who wants to train. Accessibility was important to him." In homage, that's important to Esmailzadeh, too. 9 a.m. Suigetsukan.org

—Anneli Rufus

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Birthing From Within 6-Week Childbirth Preparation Series Meets six Wednesdays (no class July 15). Info: [illegible]. Starting July 8, Wednesdays, 6:30-9 p.m. Continues through Aug. 19. $250 per couple. Birthways, 1000 Shattuck Ave. Ste. 122, Berkeley.

Optimizing Your Health With Homeopathic & Integrative Medicine Society of Women's Engineers: Mt. Diablo presents a [illegible] by Pam McDonald. Tue., July 7, 7-8 p.m. free. Livermore Library, 1188 So. Livermore Ave., Livermore.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Peace Adventures Sponsored by the [illegible] Institute. First Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, $10 donation requested. [illegible] 2430 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-883-0600, [illegible].

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Adventures in Jewish Learning Multi-session lecture series. Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.-noon. Continues through Dec. 31. $7, $100 for a 25-lecture series. Temple Beth Sholom, 642 Dolores Ave., San Leandro, 510-357-8505, [illegible].

Open Conclusions Berkeley Nights Courses open to everyone but highly recommended for people interested in leadership positions in the church. A potluck dinner at 6 p.m. will precede worship (7 p.m.) and programs (7:30 p.m.). Call for schedule. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302, UUCB.org.

Interfaith Prayers for Peace With Reverend Nancy Holcomb. All are welcome. First Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Center of Light Oakland, 2944 78th Ave., Oakland, [illegible].

LGBT Meditation Group Vipassana meditation practice. E-mail [illegible] for info. Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. East Bay Meditation Center, 2147 Broadway Ave., Oakland, 510-268-0696, EastBayMeditation.org.

Meditation, Dharma Talk and Beginner's Night Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Empty Gate Zen Center, 2200 Parker St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]-2734.

Personal Theology Seminars Guest speakers every week. Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302, UUCB.org.

Thursday Evening [illegible] Programs Exploring Unitarian [illegible] Theology: first Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Exploring Prayer and Spiritual Practices for Unitarian Universalists: second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Exploring Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Tradition: third Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Exploring World Religions: fourth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Exploring Theological Perspectives: fifth Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays. Continues through Dec. 31. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley, 510-525-0302, UUCB.org.

Worship Pastor Dr. John [illegible] leads a weekly [illegible] at a multi-ethnic church where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord. Sundays, 9 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] Agape Bible Fellowship, 2966 13th St., San Pablo, 510-235-9867, AgapeBFM.org.

YOGA & BODYWORK

Butch-Trans-Genderqueer Yoga Taught by Max Miller, a [illegible] yoga teacher with a 200-hour certification in Hatha. Miller strives to create a safe space for folks in his community to practice yoga. Mondays, Thursdays, 8-9 p.m. $8-$12 sliding scale, no one turned away for lack of funds. 510-547-8447, [illegible] Studio [illegible], 5850 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, [illegible].

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and staying. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$15. InterPlace, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-465-2797, InterPlay.org.

Lunchtime Kundalini Yoga Thursdays, 12-1:05 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30, free. William Shack Conference Room, Spiral Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley.

Tai Chi, Meditation and Qigong With Jeffrey Kessler. Thursdays, 5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $50-$70 per month. [illegible] 2315 Prince St., Berkeley, 510-704-9687, [illegible].

Yoga for Kids Two workshops led by Rebecca [illegible] Smith. Thursdays, 3:30 & 4:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 31. $10 per person. [illegible] Body Fitness Studio, 545 Bancroft Ave., San Leandro, [illegible].

PICKS

Introduction to Herbalism

Seeking remedies and medicines sans synthetic ingredients or lots of side effects? Beginning on Monday, July 6, a four-week **Introduction to Herbalism course** at the **Ohlone Center for Herbal Studies** (1250 Addison St., Ste. 113, Berkeley) focuses on how herbs work, where to find them, and how to prepare them in salves, lotions, teas, and more. 7 p.m., $350. OhloneCenter.org. *—Anneli Rufus*

Nutrition Workshop

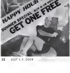
Tailor your diet precisely to your own genotype, calculating the proportions of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins with the aim of reducing cholesterol and improving heart health. Andrew Weil advocate and nationally known speaker **Pamela McDonald** gives a presentation at the **Livermore Civic Center Library** (1188 South Livermore Ave., Livermore) on Tuesday, July 7. 7 p.m., free. Livermore[illegible] *—A.R.*

Sanghapala Meditation Group

Named for a Khmer monk who translated many key Buddhist scriptures into Chinese, the **Sanghapala Meditation Group** is open to all members and meets on Tuesday, July 7, at the **Berkeley Buddhist Monastery** (2304 McKinley Ave., Berkeley) as it does on the first Tuesday of every month. The [illegible] promotes interfaith harmony. 7:30 p.m., free. Berke[illegible] *—A.R.*

Soiree Tahiti Nui

When the drums begin, the hips crank up. Tamure is a shout-out to the sea, the hills, the moon, the sun, and all the deities within. At the **[illegible] Uchiyama Center for International Dance** (720 Heinz Ave. #4, Berkeley) on Sunday, July 5, **Soirée Tahiti Nui** celebrates Tahitian song and dance with performances by the KaUaTuahine Polynesian Dance Company and others. 6 p.m., free. [illegible] or 510-845-2605 *—A.R.*



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ARTS & CULTURE

Best art gallery: Johansson Projects, Jesse Gordon Gallery, Pro Arts

Best arts organization: Pro Arts, Rock Paper Scissors Collective, Stagebridge

Best arty cafe: Mokka Café, Manila Boot Café, Rock Café

Best band: Ariel, Rupees and the Keyboards, Green Day

Best blogger: A Works Museum, Museum Eating, Museum: Living in the O

Best church music: Arts Full Gospel, Allen Temple Baptist Church, East Bay Church of Religious Science, Oakland Mormon Gospel Choir

Best club: Stork Club, Uptown, Yoshi's

Best concert venue: Fox Theater, Greek Theatre, Paramount Theatre

Best dance club: Ashkenaz, Beat Oasis, Luka's Taproom & Lounge

Best event: Art & Soul, First Friday Art Murmur, Solano Stroll

Best festival: Art & Soul, Solano Stroll, Street Fair

Best karaoke: Baker's Downtown Alley, Club Mallard, Karaoke Lounge

Best local band: DMLLZ and Friends, Soundwave, Green Day, 21st Church, Broadmoor, The Bats, Melomolo

Best local book: Beat Lines, Helping Me Help Myself, Michael Pollan, A Defense of Food; Bryant Terry, Vegan Soul Kitchen

Best museum: Berkeley Art Museum, Chabot Space & Science Center, Oakland Museum

Best musician: Kev Choice, E. Jordan, Matt Pike

Best new culture scene: Burlesque, First Friday Art Murmur, Uptown Oakland

Best painter: Gary Gonzalez, Mosaic Painter, J.R. Lowe, Lyla Pike

Best performer: Kev Choice, Honey Lawless, Nobody

Best photographer: Lev Cheung, Anna Coy, Stephen Loewinsohn, Mark Mermanot, Ron Phelps

Best purveyor of local crafts: ABD Gallery, Mateo Lighting and Crafts, Rock Paper Scissors Collective

Best sculptor: The Stick, Jonah Hendrickson, J.R. Lowe

Best singer or MC: Kev Choice, Matt Pike, Wonda Bitty, Tee Short

Best theatrical production: Beowulf at Ashby Stage, Chicken Sunday at Stagebridge, Faust at Ashby Stage

Best warehouse parties: Andy Warhol Factory Party, Ghost Town Gallery, Lobot Gallery

GOODS & SERVICES

Best bakery: Masse's, Arizmendi, Bony's, La Farine

Best bike shop: Dave's Bikes, Missing Link Bicycle Co-op, Wheels of Justice

Best bookstore: Diesel, Moe's, Pegasus & Pendragon

Best camera store: Looking Glass Photo, Bay Camera, Stober's

Best car dealer: Berkeley Honda, O'Connell Honda, Green Motors

Best car repair: Art's Automotive, Oakland Auto Works, Grandwright

Best cheese: Cheeseboard Collective, Country Cheese, Farmstead Cheese and Wine

Best children's store: Mr. Mopp's, Rockridge Kids, Ruby's Garden, Mabuhay and Flower Shop

Best comic book store: Mission Sports Cards & Comics, Mondo Kollel, Dr. Comics and Mr. Games

Best East Bay product: Mateo Lighting & Crafts, Oaklandish gear, Sketcher & Desmee

Best East Bay winery: Rosenblum, Audubon, Wente

Best eyeglass store: Focal Point Opticians, Ilhamb, Eye Optometry, Mokuba

Best facial: Claremont Resort & Spa, Elixir Salon, Le Joya Salon & Spa

Best florist: Mokuba Downtown Berkeley, Grand Lake, Mayesh

Best furniture store: Ikea, Ubuy Furniture and Mattress, Urban Ore

Best games: Dr. Comics and Mr. Games, Endgame, Games of Berkeley

Best hair salon: Blue, Kattle Salon, Peter Webster

Best pot shop: Amsterdam, Big Al's, Harborside, Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative

Best jeweler: Lil Rarely, Fisher's Custom Design Jewelry, Paul Fine Jewelry Design

Best lingerie: A La Folie, Beauty and Attitude, Victoria's Secret

Best manicure and pedicure: Joe Nail Spa, The Lounge, The Nail Shop

Best men's clothing: Dapper Man, Men's Warehouse, Party Penny

Best motorcycle shop: Cycleport, Harley Davidson, Haynes Motorbikes

Best new business: Mokuba Café, Party Penny/Saturn Records, What's Your Beef?

Best pet store: Paws and Claws, Pet Food Express, Dog Island

Best pharmacy: Long's/CVS, Jefferson Walgreen's

Best place to buy a messenger bag: Manifesto Bicycles, Montano Velo, REI

Best place to buy new gear: Auto Options, Manifesto Bicycles, Pick and Pull

Best place to buy a T-shirt: American Apparel, Oaklandish, T-Shirt City

Best place to get tattooed: Industrial Strength Tattoo, Sacred Tattoo, Zebra

Best pet clinic: Berkeley Patients Group, Cottonwood Pet Hospital, Health Center

Best pet doctor: Frank Lucido, Mary Smith

Best record store: 1-2-3-4 Go! Records, Amoeba Music, Rasputin Music

THE GOOD TIME
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SUBCULTURES

EAST BAY EXPRESS BEST OF THE EAST BAY 2009

Best salvage store: East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, Ohmega Salvage, Urban Ore

Best shoe store: Rabat, Remmi's, The Walk Shop

Best specialty music store: 1-2-3-4 Go!, [illegible] Music, Down Home Music

Best tattoo parlor: Sacred Rose Tattoo, Bullet 13, Temple Tattoo

Best toy store: The Ark, Mr. Mopps', Rockridge Kids

Best used clothing: Buffalo Exchange, Crossroads Trading Company, Pretty Penny

Best veterinarian: Broadway Animal Hospital, Oakland Animal Hospital, VCA Albany Animal Hospital

Best vintage clothing: [illegible], Mars Mercantile, Pretty Penny

Best wine store: Kermit Lynch, Paul Marcus, [illegible]

Best women's clothing: Crossroads Trading Company, Jeremy's, Pretty Penny

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Best African restaurant: Asmara, Café Colucci, Red Sea

Best barbecue: Everett & Jones, Flint's, T Rex

Best beer bar: Acme Bar, [illegible], Lanesplitter

Best breakfast/brunch: Mama's Royal Café, Rick & Ann's, Sunnyside Café

Best brewery: Pacific Coast Brewing, Pyramid, Triple Rock Brewery

Best café/coffee house: Nomad Café, Cole Café, Peet's

Best Chinese restaurant: Little Shin Shin, Shan Dong, Shen Hua

Best cocktails: À Côté, César, Flora

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best [illegible]: Bakesale Betty's, La Farine, Mama's Biscuits

Best [illegible] bar: The Alley, [illegible], Mallard Lounge

Best gay bar: Bench & Bar, [illegible], White Horse

Best Indian/Pakistani restaurant: Ajanta, [illegible] of India, Vik's [illegible]

Best Italian Restaurant: Dopo, Lo Coco's, Oliveto

Best Japanese/Sushi Restaurant: Coach Sushi, [illegible], Kirala

Best karaoke bar: The Alley, [illegible]

Best Korean Restaurant: Koryo, Ohgane, Sahn Maru

Best Mexican Restaurant: Cactus, Doña Tomás, Picante

Best Middle Eastern Restaurant: Holy Land, La Mediterranee, Pomegranate, Zatar

Best new restaurant: Commis, Flora, Sidebar

Best pick-up bar: [illegible], Luka's Taproom & Lounge, [illegible] Lounge, [illegible]

Best pizza: Cheese Board, Lanesplitter, Zachary's

Best [illegible]: [illegible], Café Gratitude, Whole Foods

Best Sandwiches: Bakesale Betty's, Genova, [illegible]

Best seafood restaurant: Sea Salt, Scott's, Spenger's

Best Southern/soul food: Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen, Brown Sugar Kitchen, Picán

Best [illegible]: The Alley, [illegible], Flora

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best Thai/Burmese: Burma Superstar, [illegible], Nan Yang

Best tiki bar: Forbidden Island, Kona Lounge, Tiki Ken's

Best vegetarian/vegan: Café Gratitude, [illegible], Golden Lotus

Best Vietnamese/Cambodian: Le Cheval, Phnom Penh, Pho 84

Cheapest drinks: The Graduate, [illegible] Lounge, Stork Club

PEOPLE & PLACES

Best charity: Alameda County Community Food Bank, East Bay SPCA, [illegible] Army

Best city employee: Ron Dellums, [illegible], Rebecca Kaplan, Jason Patton, Courtney Ruby, John Russo

Best college hangout: Bear's Lair, Raleigh's on Telegraph, Jupiter

Best college professor: George Lakoff, [illegible], Robert Reich, [illegible]

Best community organizer: [illegible], Van Jones, Jakada Imani, [illegible]

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best local [illegible]: [illegible]

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best pick-up spot: Luka's Taproom & Lounge, [illegible], Whole Foods

Best place to take the kids: Children's Fairyland, Oakland Zoo, Tilden Park

Best place to worship: [illegible]

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best under-21 hangout: 924 Gilman St., Lucky Ju Ju Pinball, Quickly Café

SPORTS & LEISURE

Best adult athletic league: [illegible], Oakland Adult, [illegible]

Best athlete (amateur): [illegible]

Best athlete (pro): [illegible], Kurt Suzuki

Best baby yoga: [illegible], Monkey Yoga Shala, [illegible]

Best boating store: California Canoe & Kayak, West Marine

Best California casino: [illegible], Casino San Pablo, Thunder Valley

Best California ski resort: Kirkwood, Squaw Valley

Best cycling store: Cycle Sports, [illegible], Mike's Bikes, Missing Link Bicycle Co-Op

Best fitness club/gym: Club One, Oakland YMCA, Gold's Gym

Best marina: Berkeley, Jack London Square, [illegible]

Best outdoor store: [illegible], Wilderness Exchange

Best [illegible]: [illegible]

Best place to play board games: The Albatross, Endgame, Games of Berkeley

Best pool hall: [illegible]

Best spinning instructor: [illegible] at Oakland YMCA, [illegible] at Berkeley YMCA, [illegible] at Club 1

Best sporting goods store: [illegible], REI, [illegible]

Best sports memorabilia store: [illegible] Sports Cards & Comics, [illegible], MVP Sportscards

Best yoga studio: Funky Door Yoga, Monkey Yoga Shala, [illegible] Yoga [illegible]

Best youth league: [illegible]

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AQUARIUM AGE

BE PREPARED TO BLOW A FUSE

For the week of July 1-7 2009

By Ralfee Finn

For the last several months, every time I sit down to write this column I am perplexed about what to write. I have the format down: Identify the themes, describe how they play out, and then offer up practical advice about how to handle the news. Or as a good friend once said, "Ralfee's column. First paragraph — life sucks; second paragraph, life sucks; and so forth until the end, which reads, 'Here's what you can do about it. And be nice.'" Okay ... maybe it's not that simple or succinct. But as I face the astrological picture for the coming weeks and months I feel the need to break free from that format. Most of us already know that we are living in exceptional times, and the current planetary patterns reflect that intensity. What the stars indicate for now and for the future is a highly charged, transformational time that is going to be deeply uncomfortable. But nothing is a fait accompli. Earth is a free-will planet and the outcome — or what we would call history — is determined by individual choice. It may not look that way at times, but nevertheless it is so. So ... as the coming weeks and months unfold, as you continue to read this column — or any other astrology column — please keep in mind that astrologers interpret symbols as best they can, but how those symbols transform into life experience is neither uniform nor predictable. We are all (astrologer and reader) actually making "it" up as we go along — and while that's a whole lotta uncertainty, in the end, it is a very good thing. True healing comes from staying on the field of action, no matter how uncomfortable, and allowing the necessary transformation to occur.

And we are definitely standing on a field of action. Uranus goes Retrograde today and stays that way until December 1, and as it "turns around," Uranus sextiles Mars from the 1st to 13th. Uranus represents kinetic energy, Mars symbolizes physical energy, and when they work in unison they generate sheer physical power. Much of that power will manifest itself as innovation, but also be prepared for sudden twists of fate, personal as well as collective.

We end this week with a Lunar Eclipse on July 7. Even though we understand the science of eclipses, eclipses still signal a reversal of the "normal" order. And given the already Uranian pulse of this week, this eclipse translates into even more upset. As regular routines fall apart, be prepared for nervous systems, yours or others', already on overload, to blow a fuse or snap a circuit breaker.

While I don't think the planets cause events, I do think there is an inexplicable correlation between celestial and terrestrial cycles. I enjoy the mystery of astrology because it invites not just the mind, but also the soul, to participate in the dialogue between heaven and earth — and that is a conversation we can all benefit from.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES It's a matter of balance, and the best way to maintain your equilibrium is to expect the unexpected. Take nothing for granted and you will handle what happens with skill and grace.

TAURUS External uncertainty could trigger internal angst, especially if you're looking for guarantees about your future. Rather than worry, stay present. If you show up in integrity, the future will take care of itself.

GEMINI Try not to let the values of others determine where you stand within yourself. Yes, it's important to consider diverse points of view, but it's better to use those perspectives to develop your own informed opinion.

CANCER New information about significant others could jolt you into impulsive choices. I'm not suggesting your reaction is "wrong," but it would be wise to consider the consequences of your decision before making choices you might later regret.

LEO It's the same old question: When is co-dependence just another word for kindness? There is no standard answer; there is only the one that works for you. Think about how you can be loving without losing your identity.

VIRGO Take advantage of opportunities to repair or mend fences with friends or associates. This isn't so much about reversing your stand as it is about using the solid ground of compromise to work beneficially for everyone.

LIBRA Make "synthesize" your personal mantra, and you'll hold onto a unified perspective. The situation is not as oppositional as it first appears. Work on softening your extremes and you'll find positive solutions.

SCORPIO You can call your current situation a crisis of faith or you can consider it an opportunity to shift out of old mental patterns and into a new mindset. This is a no-brainer: Give up what doesn't work.

SAGITTARIUS The eclipse will reveal new information about how to handle your financial situation. I am not saying you will win the lottery, but you could use this new knowledge to implement a fresh approach to money.

CAPRICORN The Lunar Eclipse in your Sign provides the potential to alter your perspective on several relationships. That doesn't mean the partnership must end. This is about shifting your role, and then allowing a new relationship to emerge.

AQUARIUS What's that saying about "all work and no play?" I'm not suggesting you stop working, especially if you love what you do. But it might be interesting to take a break, if only to refresh your perspective.

PISCES You may be experiencing confusion distinguishing the differences between friends and lovers. Focus on the qualities that bring you joy in either role, and you'll access greater clarity about what matters most to you. ●

For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Ralfee Finn

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HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

With more than two hundred items on its menu, how did we miss the Mayflower?

By Anneli Rufus

Chunks of canary-yellow mango jostle jade-green pea pods and thick smoky strips of the most realistic faux chicken in a faux meat town, hands down. Meanwhile, in another dish, actual chicken and succulent, Oreo-sized shrimp jut from Singapore vermicelli, each strand elegantly separate, stretchy-firm. If there's a Chinese phrase meaning al dente, it applies here. Almost every dish is packed with so much protein that you're primed to pop up from your chair and hike from here to San Leandro. It's *that* good. And yes. It's a hole-in-the-wall.

Small and humble and virtually invisible, holes-in-the-wall tend to be one way or the other. They are seedy dives with shocking fare or else they're somewhere's best-kept secrets, wielding world-class hot-and-sour soup under the radar. You know those. In memory they glow so that a certain summer or a certain someone smells forever in your mind like shrimp the way they fried it there. Those crimson tassels on the lampshades shimmied when the door opened and shut. The chairs squeaked. That was where your mom and dad, pulling pork from the bone, forgot to fight.

Holes-in-the-wall are yours until you lose them. Then you think you'll never know another. Out there in the universe they wink. To find one is a measure of belonging.

It's easy to miss the Mayflower, one slim slot on a downtown Berkeley block studded with seven other restaurants. Having walked past it twice a day nearly every day since it opened five years ago, I've barely noticed it except to think sometimes: There's that sad place where no one ever goes. Five years, dozens of meals out, takeaways, and guests asking to try the local best. We never brought them to the Mayflower. It never crossed our minds. We guided them past its ignore-me entryway without a glance and, oh, the irony. The glaring shame.

Because the Mayflower's double-mushroom veggie chicken is a mountain range of fat black juicy caps. And on one wall hangs a huge and surreal Photoshopped photograph of elephants on a white beach under a blindingly blue sky. And dim sum is served here all day, every day. Thirty-one kinds: Chive dumplings. Shark fin dumplings. Turnip cakes. Sweet rice in lotus leaves. *Sha mun* sesame balls, steamed *bao* stuffed with chicken or pork or creamy coconutty egg custard. Fried bread. Deep-fried custard buns. *At night.*

The Mayflower
2154 University Ave., Berkeley
510-883-9788
Cash, Mastercard, Visa
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.,
Sat.-Sun. Noon-10 p.m.

Sample Menu

Singapore Style Rice Noodles	$6.95
Crispy Sesame Veggie Chicken	$7.95
Pan-Fried Veggie Fish	$8.95
Chiu Chow Dumplings (4) ...	$2.45
Steamed Egg Custard Bun (3)	$2.45

A marvel by definition is a menu sporting 199 separate items denoting a whirlwind tour of regional and culinary styles from rock-cod clay pot to spinach with duck eggs to shrimp in lobster sauce to fried-fish-and-peanut porridge, also known as *jook*. And that's not counting the 42 lunch specials, which include such rarities as ginger lamb, seaweed salad (as an entrée!), and lemon grass pork chop. And that's not counting a separate 47-item vegetarian menu, of which we the meatless need read only as far as faux-chicken drumsticks and faux-chicken watermelon soup before swooning dead away. And that's not counting daily specials.

Or desserts.

In romantic low light, flanked by fake flowers, carved rosewood, corkscrew bamboo, and glittery Chinese poems on cardboard adorned with pop-up Disney characters, you are startled to recognize that each dish seems composed with care, as if someone wanted you to notice — and come back. Servings are huge, cooked just so. Components bulk heavy in chopsticks and spoons. They are not hurled into haphazard bits as often happens elsewhere. The Mayflower shuns that cost-cutting legerdemain that makes a little look like more. The Mayflower actually gives you more. Standards — fried rice, spare ribs — are fashioned with the same respect as out-there ventures such as vegetarian fried shrimp and orange beef.

The pan-fried "veggie fish" tastes of the sea while melting in the mouth. Chris Duffey

Someone cared to concoct the primal brightness of black pepper veggie beef *lo mein*, whose thick soft noodles offset a sophisticated sauce in which showers of pepper granules sear the tongue: a hot salty assault. This is the way Chinese food was made spicy before chili peppers crossed the sea. Someone cared to crimp the snowy-white wraps around the Chiu Chow dumplings whose chopped meat and mushrooms make them little pocket meals, chewy like mochi. Someone cared to craft a subtle curry dusting for the Malaysian-style beef chow fun. And someone cared to fry for not one femtosecond too long the crispy sesame veggie chicken, whose batter-cloaked finger-sized hunks evoke Hawaiian *malasadas* and fluffy golden corn dogs, in a good way.

Other Chinese restaurants in town. Everyone knows their names. And meatless restaurants. Instant recognition. This place, though, whose meatless dishes are only a sideline, manages nonetheless to out-yum them, like that silent shy guy on the bus who can secretly transform washcloths into gold.

Granted, a lot here is deep-fried, even things you wouldn't expect to be, for instance, orange veggie beef, whose battered chunks bask in garlicky brown sauce clotted with shredded lettuce and butter-preserved orange zest. And granted, protein is all well and good, but many dishes include no (or almost no) vegetables. If these things matter to you, ask. That's easy, as Guangdong-bred owner Mei Wang is also the server. Ask her, too, how long your selections will take to make: some — such as pan-fried veggie fish (faux meats here are called "veggie" meats) — aren't quick.

But oh. That veggie fish. Slabs shaped like salmon steaks taste hauntingly, soaringly of the sea, melting between the teeth, tender, while the faux chicken here is firm and authentically fibrous, the faux beef hearty but soft. Wang orders her faux meats from a Los Angeles producer, having taste-tested others seeking what she calls "the freshest and best."

Popping a smoky golden puff of sweet-and-sour veggie ham into his mouth, Tuffy moans. At other tables, other diners murmur like initiates. The Mayflower's walls are painted in wide bands: the exact red of the ketchup served with fried shrimp in that hole-in-the-wall I loved long ago and lost, the exact yellow of the Chinese mustard there, and lavender for laughs. Because this place was waiting for us all along, and we thought we were so smart. Now we know. ●

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RICHMOND & NORTH

Bolo Burritos 11033 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

El [illegible] 3816 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-4661 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 3288A Pierce St. (in Pacific East Mall), Richmond, 510-[illegible] (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$

The [illegible] Fish 20050 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-3333 (American/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] City Cafe 169 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-691-6740 (American/California Cuisine) $$

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$

[illegible] Solano 10544-10548 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-3878 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Kinder's [illegible] House 3000 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Hercules, 510-724-2332 (Barbecue/Deli) $

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Cafe Raj 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-5601 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

The Cape Cod 1150 Solano Ave., Albany 510-528-3308 (Seafood) $$

[illegible] Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285 (Chinese) $-$$

Christopher's Berkeley Fancy Cafe 1?? San Pablo Ave., Albany 510-526-1485 (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

Fatapple's 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Fonda 1501A Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006 (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

The [illegible] Shop 905 San Jose Ave., Albany 510-5[illegible] (Mexican) $

Kathmandu 1415 Solano Ave., Albany 510-526-2222 (Tibetan) $$

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BERKELEY-NORTH

Cha-Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-9664 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Chez Panisse 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] di Vino 1511 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley 510-666-1312 (Chocolates/Ice Creamery/Italian/Wine Bar) $$

Corso 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] Rose Street at Shattuck Avenue (North Berkeley Farmers' Market), Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gioia Pizzeria 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley 510-528-4692 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

Amanda's 2122 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2122 (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market (Center St. at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley 510-830-6096 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Vietnamese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Azerbaijan Bistro and 2175 Allston Way, Berkeley 510-704-1115 (Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790 ([illegible]) $$

[illegible] Lounge 2121 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3281 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza/Wine Bar) $$

Biryani House 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-9385 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-845-2156 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5553 (Tibetan) $-$$

[illegible] Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way (Downtown Berkeley Farmers' Market) Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe 2480-2488 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-6888 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$

[illegible] 5994-6346 [illegible] Way, Emeryville, [illegible] $$

Betty's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] Restaurant 720 University Ave., Berkeley 510-841-0960 (American) $

Cafe [illegible] 515 Heinz Ave. (at Seventh St.), Berkeley 510-843-8808 (Bakery/Coffeehouse/Cafe/Ice Creamery/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-526-4429 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8261 (Barbecue) $$

Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $$$

Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5160 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

BERKELEY-SOUTH

La [illegible] 2?5 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Finfine 3639 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0581 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way (South Berkeley Farmers' Market) Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley 510-665-1512 (Middle Eastern) $

Homemade Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-845-1940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Kirala 2100 Ward St., Berkeley, 510-549-3486 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Manpuku 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-2536 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Flavors of India [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388 (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] 6045 College Ave., Oakland 510-655-3215 (Korean) $$

Oliveto 5655 College Ave., Oakland 510-547-5356 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5472 College Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Smokey Blues Bar-Be-Que 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-350-8851 (American/Cajun/Creole/Southern/Soul Food) $$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4640 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-601-9227 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] House 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-601-0210 (Korean) $

[illegible] 2015 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible] (Korean) $$

Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522 (Mexican) $$$

Genova Delicatessen and Ravioli 5095 Telegraph Ave. Building A, Oakland 510-652-7401 (Deli/Italian) $

[illegible] 3702 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-[illegible] (Korean) $$

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

[illegible] 3?81 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-597-9900 (Korean) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 3?7 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-541-5635 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Sushi 632 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-1600 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Grégoire 4001B Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444 (French) $-$$

Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$

La Taza de Cafe 3000 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2383 (Spanish) $$$

[illegible] 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

[illegible] 515 14th St., Oakland 510-251-2753 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 338 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-4130 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

La Borinqueña Mexicatessen 582 Seventh St., Oakland, 510-444-8954 (Mexican) $-$$

Brown Sugar Kitchen 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Southern/Soul Food) $$

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LAMB DO PYAZA: Cubed Colorado boneless leg of lamb simmered in a sauce made with onions, ginger, coriander, turmeric and other spices, served topped with caramelized onions (Delhi)

KASHMIRI CHICKEN Boneless chicken pieces cooked in a sauce made with yogurt, onions, garlic, almond, pistachios, and spices including cumin and black pepper (Kashmir)

SAMBAHR WITH VEGETABLES: Toor daal (a type of lentil) cooked with spices, tamarind and vegetables including carrots, eggplant, and green beans (South India) (Vegan)

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Bellanico
4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. This Glenview neighborhood hangout prepares and serves mostly exemplary and always inventive Italian dishes in a warm and convivial setting. Begin your meal with the startlingly good gorgonzola panna cotta or a platter of antipasti. Sicilian pasta with sweet raisins, dandelion greens and milk-braised goat. The grilled pork chop with cherries and pickled rhubarb is a marvelous entrée, and don't miss the tangy chèvre cheesecake or the luscious chocolate-date pudding for dessert. Unusual and impressive (primarily Italian) wine list. $$$

Azerbaijan Restaurant
2175 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-704-4998. Owner Daud Dursun, who also owns Albany around the block, hails from Tabriz, the capital of Iran's East Azerbaijan Province. Azeri dishes look, feel, and largely even taste Persian but tweaked more nuts, chickpeas, tomatoes, potatoes, saffron, fried onions, and fresh and dried fruit. For instance, the *fesenjoon*, the pomegranate-walnut stew that is the Caucasian answer to mole sauce, is a little sweeter and smoother here than in typical Persian restaurants. Azerbaijan reveres rice, as this place proves. Choose *baghali polo*, with melt-in-your-mouth baby lima beans and lots of dill. Or *zereshk polo* with saffron and sweet-sharp red barberries. Or, best of all, tears-in-your-eyes *shirin polo*, with saffron, raisins, preserved orange peel, pistachios, and almonds. $$

Zen
2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-7070. Zen's eclectic house cuisine encompasses Chinese, Hawaiian, Korean, Italian, and Japanese cooking traditions with unfocused hits and mixed success. The spaghetti with enoki mushrooms and fish roe and the kimchi-ribboned fried rice are zesty examples of comfort food, and the vermicelli with roast duck and mango is a sweet and savory treat, but the chicken gizzard yakitori and the panko-crusted fish and chips are best avoided. Desserts are on the hotel-banquet level, but the mango sorbet is a nice tangy meal-closer. Impressive array of soju and sake cocktails; handsome low-key red-and-black ambience. $$

Chick-O-Pea's
1926 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888. Falafel are ostensibly street food, but you wouldn't want to wolf a Chick-O-Pea's falafel while strolling down the street, because you owe it more than that, because each bite bursts juicy-chewy-crunchy-hot, then yields a sneaky slow sophisticated spice charge on the double-take. Pocketed in a thick soft house-baked pouch, it's not really street food but the sort of hybrid that could be conceived only in Berkeley: sit-down street food. Worth the trip to this 100-percent vegetarian oasis is Chick-O-Pea's falafel/salad bar, where nine or more exotic, house-made Lebanese-style toppings can be ladled or pincered onto falafels, into falafel burgers, and atop organic baby greens. Shawarma comes in five flavors, but the "pita fries" — fried strips of leftover bread — are a guilty pleasure that goes well with a serving of tzatziki, hummus, or baba ghanoush. $

Barlata
4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678. This friendly bustling Temescal hangout has the relaxed vibe of a Barcelona cafe, and chef-owner Daniel Olivella's three dozen tapas keep things authentically Iberian: a tasty Spanish omelet ribboned with chorizo; lamb meatballs with an earthy chocolate-tomato sauce; three different gazpachos in fluted glasses; slow-cooked octopus served in a glittering sardine can. The perfunctory seafood paella is worth skipping, but the desserts — particularly the grilled chocolate brioche sandwich with crema catalana — are delectable. Affordable and cohesive all-Spanish wine list. $$$

E-Z Stop Deli
2233 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9344. The hardworking, solicitous sandwich-makers at E-Z Stop build tall substantial towers. The size of the sandwiches and the friendliness of the staff evoke times of yore, that gentle generosity of delis in the era before Subway, when confident countermen asked gently, "All the trimmings, man?" and sliced onions with bravura and seemed to care. The fourteen-ounce avocado-and-cheese sandwich is a can't-fit-your-mouth-around-it block comprising an entire avocado, several thick slices of cheese, and fistfuls of raw produce. A seventeen-ounce egg salad sandwich, black-pepper bits spiking its silky smoothness, soars four inches tall. These are master-class sandwiches: plainly exquisite, exquisitely plain. ∎

Grub N Go
2009 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-540-5282. Closed on weekends and popular with students, Grub N Go serves regular sandwiches along with baked potatoes and hot sandwiches. The latter, such as the lofty, melty, rich, thirteen-ounce "Mushroom Mozzarella" and colossal eighteen-ounce "Vegetarian" — bursting with roasted eggplant, roasted mushrooms, roasted peppers, cheese, handfuls of spinach, and three different mustards — qualify as three-course meals. Outdoor umbrella tables make for a nice break on a sunny day. ∎

Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe Oakland 1111 Broadway, Lobby Level of AR Building, Oakland, 510-465-5300 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$

Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Chef Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1315 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-9516 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

La Furia Chalaca 310 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4206 (Peruvian/Seafood/Latin American) $$

Jesse's Gumbo Restaurant and Cabaret 901 Washington St., Oakland, 510-451-1583 (Cajun/Creole/Caribbean/Southern/Soul Food) $$

ALAMEDA

Angel Fish 853 Island Dr., Suite C-2, Alameda, 510-749-0400 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Angsa 2508 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4100 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Bar Cuba 2319 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5802 (California Cuisine) $$$

Cuban 1508 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-1130 (Cuban) $$

La Piñata 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-0111 (Mexican) $$

Sandwich Island 2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-3368 (Deli) $

Speisekammer 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300 (German/American) $$

Sushi King 1651 Park St. (in the Park Street Marketplace), Alameda, 510-523-8858 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

OAKLAND EAST

Cancun's Restaurant 3731 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-4785 (Mexican) $

Los Cocos 1449 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-536-3078 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

El Farolito Restaurant 4106 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8090 (Mexican) $-$$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, (510) 533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

Full House Cafe 5738 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2700 (American/Diner) $

El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

Pho Ao Sen 1139 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-839-8823 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6748 (Mexican) $

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Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward. 510-886-9823 (American/Brewpub) $

Curry Corner 29857 Mission Blvd. Hayward. 510-581-4003 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward. (510) 581-3222 (Barbecue) $$

Grand Taiwan 25558 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward. 510-784-7533 (Chinese) $$

JD's Restaurant and Pies 2831 Castro Valley Blvd. Castro Valley. 510-886-6927 (Diner) $

La Plaza 2809 Merced St., San Leandro. 510-352-9800 (Mexican) $$

La Plaza 904 Rose St., Hayward. 510-538-9967 (Mexican) $$

Sam's Super Burger 14401 Hesperian Blvd. San Lorenzo. 510-218-0920 (American/Diner) $

FREMONT NEWARK & UNION CITY

China Tofu 1143 Decoto Rd., Union City 510-475-0485 (Chinese) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 43781 Boscell Rd. Fremont. 510-440-1100 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 41138 Fremont Blvd. Fremont. 510-657-1412 ([illegible]) $

[illegible] Grill 39158 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont. 510-791-1700 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] 5200 Mowry Ave. Fremont. 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$$

[illegible] Palace 5030 New Park Mall Rd. Newark. 510-794-5400 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

PLEASANT HILL, CONCORD & EAST

[illegible] Bistro 1825 Sutter St., Ste. C, Concord. 925-825-3211 (Eastern European/German/Austrian) $$

[illegible] Gyros and Hot Dogs 2[illegible] Golf Club Rd. Pleasant Hill. 925-687-8454 (Greek/Turkish) $

Hollywood Pizza, Pasta & More 2580 B Salvio St. Concord. 925-521-9000 (Italian/Pizza) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 Morello Ave. Pleasant Hill. 925-798-2333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 1[illegible] Arnold Industrial Way. Concord. 925-685-8700 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 5411 Lone Tree Way # 110 Brentwood. 925-308-7991 (Barbecue/Deli) $

La Bonita 2274 Willow Pass Rd. Concord. 925-609-9185 (Mexican) $$

Mac's Old House 3600 E. 18th St., Antioch. 925-757-9908 (American/Italian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Kinder's Custom Meats 1818 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek. 925-932-8393 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St. Walnut Creek. 925-256-1234 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1205 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible] (Chinese) $$

Prima 1522 N. Main St. Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd. Walnut Creek. 925-947-6105 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

[illegible] 1629 Bonanza St. Walnut Creek. 925-291-0288 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway Walnut Creek. 925-943-5666 (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

Walnut Creek Yacht Club 1555 Bonanza St. Walnut Creek. 925-944-3746 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

LAMORINDA

[illegible] Cafe 2 Theatre Sq., Suite 150, Orinda. 925-254-5280 (Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern) $

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. 925-283-7133. (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda. 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Lily's House 3550 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-284-7388 (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Lafayette 3774 Mount Diablo Blvd. (in the Plaza Shopping Center) Lafayette. 925-784-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

Postino 3565 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. 925-299-8700. (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Cafe 1002 School St. [illegible]. 925-376-[illegible] (American) $-$$

[illegible] 300 Park St. (in the Rheem Valley shopping plaza), Moraga. 925-377-7683 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

TRI-VALLEY

Blue Agave Club 625 Main St. Pleasanton. 925-417-1224 (Mexican) $$$

Bridges Restaurant and Bar 44 Church St. Danville. 925-820-7200 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] Bistro 390 Rose Ave. Pleasanton. 925-462-0180. (French) $$$-$$$$

Dean's Cafe 620 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-4222 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $-$$

Koonami Grill 1361-A Market Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-8144. (Hawaiian) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 105 Town & Country Dr. Suite G, Danville. 925-552-6520 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 4015 Hopyard Rd. Suite F2 Pleasanton. 925-461-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Roderick's BBQ and Seafood 5601 [illegible] Dr. Pleasanton. 925-251-0650 (Barbecue/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

El Sabor de Fruitvale The Unity Council presents fresh produce and live salsa performances. First Thursday of every month, 5-8 p.m. free. Fruitvale Village, 34th & 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-0930. UnityCouncil.org.

Fresh Film screening: film about market gardeners, and businesspeople who are rethinking agribusiness, resource depletion, and other food justice issues. Tue., July 1, 6:30 p.m. $10 suggested donation. [illegible] Richmond and [illegible], 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-3364. [illegible]

Independence Day Celebration Wine tasting. Sat., July 4, 2-6 p.m. free. Two Mile Wines, 2316 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. TwoMileWines.com.

Wine Wednesdays Complimentary wine tastings and wine by the glass for only $5. Second Wednesday of every month. 5-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Periscope Cellars & Gallery, 1410 62nd St. (Ste. F), Emeryville. 510-655-7827. PeriscopeCellars.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-351-8000. ShopBayfair.com.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stand Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-841-1714. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St. (at Oregon St.), Berkeley. 510-981-5050. [illegible]

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Medical Center Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. ACE Hardware Parking Lot, 301 Arlington Ave., Berkeley.

Laurel Market Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel District, [illegible]. 510-[illegible]

Martinez Certified Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Dec. [illegible] Main St. Martinez, 800 Main St., Martinez. CCFM.org.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues [illegible] 16. free. Court St. [illegible], between Main & Escobar Sts., Martinez.

Point Richmond Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh seasonal produce. Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 28. free. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

San Leandro Downtown Farmers' Market With cooking demonstrations, [illegible], and gourmet foods. Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 21. free. Parrott St. between E. 14th St. & Washington Ave. San Leandro.

San Lorenzo Farmers' Market With [illegible], and [illegible] organized by Friends of the Farmers' Market. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Nov. 21. free. Hesperian Blvd. at Paseo Grande (San Lorenzo), San Lorenzo.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at Center St.), Berkeley. 510-[illegible]

Temescal Farmers' Market California certified farmers offer seasonal produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

PICK

Recycling Center Barbecue

Got a craving for a cookout that can't wait until Independence Day? Well, what better place to chow down than a recycling center? Thursday, July 2's **open house** at the **Berkeley Recycling Center** (669 Gilman St., Berkeley) features a smokin' sizzlin barbecue along with games, staff meet-and-greets, truck demonstrations, and personal tours encompassing the center's buyback and donation stations as well as sorting and bailing. 11 a.m. BerkeleyRecycling.org. —*Anneli Rufus*

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DEPRESSION, ANYONE?

The somber magnificence of *Public Enemies*. The deceptive depths of *The Girl from Monaco*

By Kelly Vance

Public Enemies takes a rather somber look at 1930s-era Depression.

It's not necessary to know much about John Dillinger, or the early FBI, or even the classic Hollywood gangster movies of the 1930s and 1940s, in order to get something out of Michael Mann's dead-serious, rather somber *Public Enemies*. But a little perspective is always a good thing.

Johnny Depp and Christian Bale, with grim, resolute expressions on their faces, portray bank robber Dillinger and FBI hoodlum hunter Melvin Purvis, respectively, as fierce adversaries out of a different time. In 1933, as the film opens on Dillinger staging a jail break to spring his crew from the Indiana state prison in Michigan City, a man could rob a bank and then drive a hundred miles and sit down to dinner at his home, as long as he could outrun the local cops. Dillinger, the FBI's Public Enemy Number One, could actually stroll unrecognized into a Chicago police station and walk around, studying the cops' clippings and mug shots of him. Police and thieves, lacking such modern conveniences as cell phones and the Internet, essentially played primitive hunting games with each other: Stake out, spot your man, shoot to kill. Purvis is introduced to us in a field, shooting down a crook like a big-game hunter.

But that way of life was fading, even in the mid-1930s. The Dillinger era was also the age of consolidation. J. Edgar Hoover (played by Billy Crudup as a prissy bureaucrat) was busy shaping the FBI into a national crime-fighting organization. And on the other side, men like the Chicago Outfit's Frank Nitti were turning bootlegging gangs into the conglomerate known as organized crime. Neither side had any use for a wild-hair outlaw like Dillinger, a genuine folk hero to some, who refused to harm ordinary people (he tells a depositor in a bank he's sticking up that he doesn't want the man's money, only the bank's) but brought police heat to the syndicate with his brazen shootouts.

Dillinger had to go. No wonder Depp plays him with such an edgy, haunted look. Other latter-period movies about that era — *Bonnie and Clyde*, for instance, or even John Milius' 1973 *Dillinger* — had fun with the old cars, the wardrobes, and the ricky-ticky music. Mann's vision instead burrows deeply into the depths of the Great Depression, from the terse screenplay (by Mann himself, Northern Irish writer Ronan Bennett, and Ann Biderman of TV's *Southland*) and Dante Spinotti's exquisite alternating blue-and-umber-toned cinematography to Elliot Goldenthal's orchestral score, with its echoes of Mahler. The numerous prison breaks and gunfights are handled with brisk, matter-of-fact brutality.

Public Enemies

Directed by Michael Mann. With Johnny Depp, Christian Bale, Marion Cotillard, and Billy Crudup. Opens today.

The Girl from Monaco

Directed by Anne Fontaine. With Fabrice Luchini, Louise Bourgoin, and Roschdy Zem. Opens Friday.

Mann populates Dillinger's Midwest with a terrific cast of supporting players, especially Stephen Dorff as Dillinger henchman Homer Van Meter, Lili Taylor as a female sheriff (!), Peter Gerety as Dillinger's scene-stealing defense attorney, and Mann regular Stephen Lang as G-man Charles Winstead, one of Purvis' Texas hunters. Sad-eyed Marion Cotillard, the one-time Edith Piaf, takes a poignant turn as Billie Frechette, Dillinger's half-French, half-Native American girlfriend.

Bale, as the implacable cop Purvis, essentially plays one note, perfectly. Our sympathies are clearly with the outlaw, whom Depp imagines as a combination of Hamlet and his Wade Walker in *Cry-Baby* — all-American born-to-lose doom with a tinge of Euro glamour. He finally gets a chance to use his Kentucky twang in character and even recycles a line from *Bonnie and Clyde*: "I'm John Dillinger. I rob banks."

Leave it to the French to take a standard-brand comic premise like the Middle-Aged-Man-Meets-Sexy-Young-Woman-and-Makes-a-Fool-of-Himself and twist it in a couple of unexpected directions. Darker directions, off the beaten path.

We said "Leave it to the French," but it's really "Leave it to Anne Fontaine." The Luxembourg native, now a French-based writer-director (*How I Killed My Father*, *Dry Cleaning*), has a talent for capturing the bizarre in the foibles of the aspirational middle class. And *The Girl from Monaco* has plenty of aspirational material to work with in its story of a successful defense attorney (Fabrice Luchini) going bananas over a leggy blond TV weather girl (Louise Bourgoin) while the lawyer's stolid bodyguard (Roschdy Zem) looks on disapprovingly.

In the opulent title principality with its Riviera beachfront, famed criminal lawyer Bertrand Beauvois (Luchini) is defending a rich woman (veteran femme fatale Stéphane Audran, a nice touch) against a charge of murder. Audran's Mme. Lassalle is accused of killing her employee, a Russian with organized crime connections, and security is so tight that the Monaco court appoints an operative named Christophe Abadi (Zem) to keep an eye on Bertrand. That means "sweeping" a hotel room, driving the lawyer around, and generally sticking to him like glue, for the duration of the trial. At first we're tempted to note that French actor Zem bears a striking resemblance to President Obama, but then Zem and Obama, too, have "anywhere" faces. They would fit right in walking down the street anywhere in the greater Mediterranean/African region, from Damascus to Cairo to Marseille to Fez.

After a short scene in which Bertrand's emotional ex-wife dramatically tries to return to him — the attorney asks his bodyguard to ease her aside — Bertrand runs into Audrey Varella (Bourgoin), the hyper-slutty, mega-ditzy doll who clowns her way through the local TV weather forecast, at a party, and she instantly comes on to him. Why? He's a flabby, fiftyish lawyer; she's a mini-skirted blond sex bomb (think the young Laura Dern crossed with Ludivine Sagnier) who parties all night at discos, affects baby talk, and lives in a teenage-style apartment dominated by a portrait of Princess Di. Turns out she wants to "profile" Bertrand in filmmaker Fontaine's perfect parody of a TMZ-type airhead video bite. Christophe has his suspicions about Audrey as well, but from another angle: he used to date her.

Tagging around behind Audrey like a wallflower at the orgy, obligingly swallowing her pills and waking up feeling way out of his league even though he's indulging in a classic male fantasy, Bertrand ends up philosophizing to the sympathetic Christophe about sex (the "wonders we'll discover" speech) and life in general. And so we've got a strained semi-erotic love triangle complicated by midlife crisis, conflicting duties, and heaps of Euro-naughtiness. And all the while we're expecting Russian hoods to pop up and shoot Bertrand. Fontaine drives this hybrid vehicle all the way into the outskirts of Claude Chabrol country before she's through. By then this seemingly light-hearted sex comedy has taken three or four sharp turns we'd never encounter on the Hollywood Freeway. ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

The Girl from Monaco Deceptively absurd French would-be sex comedy stars Fabrice Luchini as a Parisian criminal lawyer in Monaco for a touchy murder trial, Louise Bourgoin as the lusty-ditzy TV weather girl who gets a crush on him, and steely-eyed Roschdy Zem as the court-appointed bodyguard whose duty to protect the middle-aged lawyer means following him into nightclubs, watching him make with the much younger woman, rescuing him after the drink, alcohol and pills, etc. The writing, by director Anne Fontaine (*How I Killed My Father*) and Benoît Graffin (*Priceless*), starts out in screwball and gracefully sets us up for detours into more ambiguous territory. [illegible] scene-setting by Fontaine and substantial performances by all three principals. (95 min.) (K.V.) B.

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs Not even 30 [illegible] save this third entry in the Fox animation franchise about a motley crew of prehistoric creatures. This time they face danger from beneath the earth's frozen crust, as Sid the sloth discovers a trio of dinosaur eggs, adopts the hatchlings, and meets the wrath of their mama, a Tyrannosaurus rex. Simon Pegg provides the voice of a buccaneer weasel that leads the gang through one ordeal after another; the movie pace quickly grows tiresome, as does the influx of cloying baby animals. Carlos Saldanha and Mike Thurmeier directed; among the other voice cast are Ray Romano, Queen Latifah, Denis Leary, and John Leguizamo. (91 min.) (J.J.) ATC, BS, BC, EP, CVPC, CR, CCPH, DR, OUC, CLC, BH, CRC, EA, RH, L, UA3E, WWS

Public Enemies The Michael Mann-Johnny Depp version of the story of Midwestern outlaw John Dillinger's life and times delves deeply into the Great Depression, with a moody, fatalistic Dillinger (Depp) trying in vain to outrun G-man crack-hunter Melvin Purvis (stoic Christian Bale) while knocking off hick-town banks. As dramatized by Director Mann and co-writers Ronan Bennett and Anne Biderman, Dillinger presented a threat to J. Edgar Hoover's FBI and organized crime — he had to go. But on his way out, [illegible] enough jail breaks, ambushes, and tommy guns to satisfy anyone's violent fantasies of a popular Robin Hood. Terrific supporting cast: Marion Cotillard as Dillinger's girlfriend, Stephen Dorff as a henchman, Billy Crudup as the prissy Hoover, Lili Taylor as a 1930s-minded sheriff, Stephen Lang as a [illegible], et al. Gorgeous cinematography by Dante Spinotti. Somber but magnificent. (140 min.) (K.V.) ATC, BS, BC, BP, CVPC, CB, CCPH, CH, OUC, CN, BH, CCC, EA, PM, DRC, RA, RH, R[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

Showtimes Online

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Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Albany **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex **BC** = Brenden Concord **BH** = Blackhawk **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg **BS** = Bay Street **CA** = California **CAPH** = [illegible] **CB** = [illegible] **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas **CCPH** = Century Pleasant Hill **CC** = Century Hilltop **CHY** = Century Hayward **CN** = Cinedome Newark **CRC** = Crow Canyon **CSC** = Chabot Space and Science **CUC** = Century Union City **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek **DV** = Deer Valley **EC** = El Cerrito Speakeasy **GL** = Grand Lake **JL** = Jack London **LP** = La Peña **MB** = [illegible] **OA** = Oaks **OR** = Orinda **PM** = Piedmont **RA** = [illegible] **RCE** = [illegible] **RH** = Regal Hacienda **RT** = Rheem Theatre **S** = Shattuck **UAE** = UA Berkeley **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay **V** = Vine **WWS** = West Wind Solano

and it's up to FBI agents Bill Pullman and Julia Ormond to separate reality from spoofs. Or so it seems. It's hard to say which is worse — Jennifer (Boxing Helena) Lynch's direction or the [illegible] she shows [illegible] Kent Harper, who plays one of the nutty cops. The film's publicity [illegible]. If so, Rashomon [illegible] is more like it. A waste of perfectly good actors, including thriller/horror stalwart Michael [illegible] (97 min.). (K.V.) S

ONGOING

Away We Go The casting of Saturday Night Live's Maya Rudolph and fellow TV star John Krasinski (The Office) as Verona and Burt, an expectant couple traveling the US looking for the ideal place to raise a family, is the best thing about this slightly satirical road-trip comedy. Second best thing is the organic-feeling screenplay by Dave Eggers and Vendela Vida. Sam (American Beauty) Mendes' direction [illegible] third place, with honorable mention to the large cast of supporting [illegible] Maggie Gyllenhaal, Carmen Ejogo, Catherine O'Hara, Jeff Daniels, Allison Janney [illegible] every stereotype available in North America. We feel sorry for everyone's kin except Burt and Verona's. (85 min.) (K.V.) CNC, CAPH, CL, UATB

The Brothers Bloom Con-men siblings Adrien Brody and Mark Ruffalo [illegible] around Europe [illegible] schemes to separate a [illegible] heiress (Rachel Weisz) from her millions. [illegible] visually rich [illegible] Eurostyle atmospheric romance [illegible] Brody and Weisz doing most of the [illegible] Ruffalo and his [illegible] female sidekick (Rinko Kikuchi from Babel) supply the [illegible] and rough stuff. Writer-director Rian Johnson (Brick) hauls the travelogue with playful allusions to Herman Melville's The Confidence Man and sly cameos by Robbie Coltrane, Maximilian Schell, and [illegible] Nicky [illegible] Eye candy with a soul. (113 min.) (K.V.) V

Chéri A lavish, flatly overdubbed [illegible] of a [illegible] romance, courtesy novelist Colette and director Stephen Frears, who [illegible] Christopher Hampton's adaptation of [illegible] tragic love story. We're left with the Steel Magnolias version of La Belle Époque [illegible] whose middle-aged Parisian courtesan (weary-looking Michelle Pfeiffer) [illegible] herself over her [illegible] when a young dandy [illegible] and dodging the [illegible] of her [illegible] a coven of [illegible] old whores overplayed by Kathy Bates, [illegible] Anita Pallenberg, et al. Audiences may need smelling salts to revive themselves, or maybe just coffee to stay awake. (100 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, AL, PM

Cosmic Voyage Morgan Freeman explains the universe to you in a 40-min IMAX documentary. CSC

Departures A [illegible] cellist [illegible] his orchestra job and [illegible] with his wife to his home town in northeastern Japan, where he inadvertently answers a help-wanted ad and lands a job as a nokanshi, or "encoffineer" — the traditional [illegible] of preparing a corpse for cremation. The new job changes his outlook on life [illegible]. Terrific performance by Masahiro Motoki as the [illegible], with warm-hearted support by Tsutomu Yamazaki as the [illegible]. Directed movingly by Yojiro Takita from a screenplay by [illegible] (131 min.) (K.V.) S

Dinosaurs Alive From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, dinosaurs are uncovered by paleontologists and portrayed in realistic CGI. CSC

Easy Virtue Noël Coward's England [illegible] in which a young playboy (Ben Barnes) brings his 'brassy' American wife (Jessica Biel) to meet the family in their [illegible] country home, where [illegible] the new wife and the [illegible] mother-in-law (Kristin Scott Thomas) spend the rest of the film [illegible] at each other. Biel and Scott Thomas clearly have a [illegible] with their [illegible] director Stephan Elliott (The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert), who adapted Coward's 1924 play with Sheridan Jobbins. Colin Firth is [illegible] as the father-in-law [illegible] who likes to tinker with engines. Vastly preferable to Brideshead Revisited. (93 min.) (K.V.) PCC

Food, Inc. It's worse than we thought. Robert Kenner's [illegible] food industry [illegible] will not only make you want to [illegible] factory-farmed meat, but practically everything else on the shelves of your local supermarket. With help from whistle-blowing [illegible] authors Michael Pollan and Eric Schlosser, Kenner's team [illegible] the [illegible] fields and feed lots where [illegible] Cargill, Tyson, and other [illegible] cut every [illegible] corner to bring American consumers their daily ration of fat and sugars. The one hopeful note: Wal-Mart is going organic, thanks to consumer demand. So demand [illegible] (94 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, UA, RCE

Forces of Nature Learn about the causes of earthquakes, volcanoes, [illegible] and [illegible] and be awed by their effects on [illegible] humans, in National Geographic's latest IMAX-tastic offering. CSC

The Hangover Standard-brand [illegible] road-trip bromance sees four guys through a drunken Las Vegas bachelor-party weekend in which they forget everything that happened the night before. [illegible] the memory of this Boys comedy, written by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore and directed by Todd Phillips. The [illegible] Ken Jeong's [illegible] scene as Mr. Chow, the naked Chinese gangster [illegible] in the trunk. Everything else [illegible] Helms, Zach Galifianakis, Bradley Cooper, and Justin Bartha. (100 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Human Body Ever wonder how your body does what it does without your having to tell it to? Find out in this [illegible] trip through the [illegible] human body. [illegible] 250-mph [illegible] CSC

Imagine That Eddie Murphy strikes the right [illegible] in this [illegible] family comedy, starring as a divorced, workaholic financial analyst who neglects his seven-year-old daughter (charmer Yara Shahidi) [illegible] and retreats into fantasy. When he realizes that her invisible friends are capable of [illegible] investments, he changes his tune and begins [illegible] playtime [illegible] her. Director Karey Kirkpatrick (Over the Hedge) [illegible] laughter from [illegible] Murphy, aided by a [illegible] supporting cast [illegible] Sheen as the boss and Thomas Haden Church as an office rival, [illegible] shamanic [illegible] (107 min.) (A.G.) [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Kal Kissne Dekha Vivek Sharma (Bhoothnath) [illegible] student [illegible] played by Jackky Bhagnani, who [illegible] the power to see and the future (134 min.) [illegible]

Land of the Lost Will Ferrell's [illegible] but his comic timing is perfect and the writing [illegible] goofy summer [illegible] about a [illegible] "quantum paleontology" (Ferrell) who time-travels with another [illegible] (Anna Friel) and a [illegible] (Danny McBride) to a desert/jungle setting where [illegible] of pop-cultural [illegible] — like the [illegible] of A Chorus Line. Director Brad Silberling (Lemony Snicket's [illegible]) and writers Chris Henchy and Dennis McNicholas [illegible] Sid and Marty Krofft's '70s-era TV series. And yes, that's Leonard Nimoy's voice as The Zarn. (93 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

The Living Sea You've seen Finding Nemo; now see the real thing. It's a trip to the [illegible] ocean, narrated by Meryl Streep, with songs and music by Sting. CSC

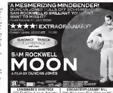
Moon Astronaut Sam Bell (played by Sam Rockwell), [illegible] a three-year [illegible] harvesting helium on the moon with his [illegible] robotic [illegible] and things deteriorate from there. The [illegible] doppelganger [illegible] Is Sam himself an android who doesn't realize it? How many Sams are [illegible] enough? These and [illegible] take up most of the time in [illegible] Duncan Jones' [illegible] with a screenplay by Nathan Parker from a story by [illegible] Jones, son of [illegible] (97 min.) (K.V.) CAPH, S

My Life in Ruins Nia Vardalos, star of My Big Fat Greek Wedding, returns in this [illegible] Greek-American tour guide in Athens who needs to recover her [illegible] Richard Dreyfuss [illegible] Donald Petrie (Welcome to Mooseport) and writer Mike Reiss (The Simpsons) [illegible] American [illegible] the lusty Spaniard, and especially the Greek hunk played by Alexis Georgoulis, who [illegible] Vardalos [illegible]. Even the [illegible] (98 min.) (K.V.) V

My Sister's Keeper Screenwriter Jeremy Leven and director Nick Cassavetes, looking for another [illegible] like their Alzheimer's drama The Notebook (2004), adapt Jodi Picoult's best-seller about a family misshapen by the illness of one child's leukemia. The [illegible] is [illegible] but harrowing: 11-year-old Anna (Abigail Breslin), who was genetically engineered by her parents (Jason Patric and Cameron Diaz) to serve as a medical [illegible] for her ailing older sister [illegible] hires an ambulance-chasing attorney (Alec Baldwin) to sue [illegible] for her [illegible] emancipation. [illegible] Cassavetes is frequently [illegible] the cast (Diaz is admirably [illegible] as the controlling mother, and Joan Cusack [illegible] as the presiding judge). (109 min.) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history and most importantly mysteries of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian [illegible] setting Ben Stiller and an army of CGI critters through a second round of slapstick "educational" [illegible] this time with museum night watchman Stiller [illegible] Amelia Earhart (Amy Adams). A [illegible] case of [illegible] a gallery of [illegible] including Owen Wilson, Steve Coogan, Hank Azaria (best [illegible] imitation), Christopher Guest, and [illegible] Robin Williams as Teddy Roosevelt. [illegible] Robert Ben Garant and Thomas Lennon wrote the screenplay, directed by Shawn Levy. (105 min.) (K.V.) [illegible] CCC, [illegible] RA, RH, RT



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MET

The Proposal Rom-com *The Proposal* is remedial, conventional and utterly predictable — and yet none of this matters, as the chemistry between Sandra Bullock as fire-breathing boss and Ryan Reynolds as her groveling assistant makes up for all the movie's shortcomings. Consider the premise: when Margaret (Bullock) discovers her work visa has been canceled, she has no choice but to blackmail Andrew (Reynolds) into marrying her. They head up to Alaska to meet his parents and celebrate the birthday of his spirited grandma (Betty White, brilliant as always) and, before long, Andrew takes on new dimensions. Margaret begins to see him as a real person. And, well, you get the idea. It's a cut above remedial. It's just fun (107 min.). (C.H.) ATC, BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CHY, CH, CLE, CRC, EL, FA, TR, CRC, RA, RH, JL, RCE, UAEB

Star Trek J.J. Abrams reinvigorates the future in *Star Trek*, and in the process resurrects a franchise most thought was retired. This was accomplished by jumping back in time (from Captain Jean-Luc Picard's *The Next Generation*) to the first adventure of James T. Kirk, Spock, and Dr. McCoy aboard the Enterprise [illegible] even the original television series. Thanks to a nifty time-traveling Spock (Leonard Nimoy) from the future of the future, Abrams manages to innocently cancel a bit and lend a sense of suspense to the proceedings. Recasting is admirable (especially Zachary Quinto and Karl Urban as Spock and McCoy) and the action will make trekkies want to go and join Starfleet (126 min.) CN, 5:00, CWC, CEPH, CUC, CHY, S, RF, CH, RA, RT, WMS

The Stoning of Soraya M. A shooting husband gets rid of his "inconvenient wife" by conspiring with a religious cadre to get her condemned to death by stoning. Welcome to Islamic revolutionary Iran, circa 1979, one of the world's hot spots for such [illegible]. And welcome to Purgatory Film, directed by Cyrus Nowrasteh, following journalist Freidoune Sahebjam's book (adapted by Betsy Giffen Nowrasteh, wife of the filmmaker), showing how male-dominated society [illegible] with plain old lust. The action stoning of the unfortunate Soraya (Iranian-American actress Mozhan Marnò) goes on a long time, with [illegible] and popular camera angles to catch each individual rock striking her head, so be prepared. A strange and repugnant [illegible] of work, makes an anti-Islamist-Iranian agit-prop. Persons: Costarring Shohreh Aghdashloo as the devoted Zahra, Jim Caviezel as a reporter and Ali Pourtash as the husband [illegible] (116 min.) (K.V.) S

Megan Fox and Shia LaBeouf in *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*

The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3 Not insulting, but absolutely no improvement on the 1974 original. Killer thugs led by maniacal John Travolta commandeer a New York City subway train and it's up to mild-mannered transit exec Denzel Washington to stop them. Someone should have stopped maker, expert Tony Scott (*Top Gun*) from getting hold of this engine — all he does is add unnecessary car wrecks and CGI explosions instead of letting Washington, cop John Turturro and NYC mayor James Gandolfini take center stage. For Holiday Travolta there was never any hope in the first place. Run-of-the-mill screenplay by Brian Helgeland, adapted from John Godey's novel (106 min.) (K.V.) ATC, BC, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CHY, RCC, TR, CRC, RA, RH, JL, WMS, UAEB

Terminator Salvation Fourth installment (not counting the TV series) of the puzzlingly popular humanoid-machines-from-the-future yarn pits time-traveling savior of humanity John Connor (Christian Bale) against swarms of evil giant robots intent on stamping out humankind, with reluctant help from a renegade but disguised as a humanoid fighter (Sam Worthington). Some constant as always — [illegible] Connor's father, meet the future [illegible] (*Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*) steals liberally from Ridley Scott and Stanley Kubrick, but the robot gizmos are pretty good. [illegible] Blair Williams [illegible] intriguingly [illegible] before Bloodsport. The one we've seen before: [illegible] a CGI cameo Arnie lookalike. Written by a couple of droids named John D. Brancato and Michael Ferris (115 min.) (K.V.) CUC, RH, UAEB

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen Master of [illegible] Michael Bay delivers a sequel to his 2007 hit, inspired by the 1980s Hasbro toys, about robotic aliens that morph into robot machines. Shia LaBeouf returns as the reluctant hero now off at college who's drawn back into the intergalactic war between the benevolent Autobots and the evil Decepticons. The special effects are

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Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

better and the dialogue slightly more humorous than in the first movie, but the sub-Avid pretense is repugnant. The ensuing armageddon destroys both an Egyptian pyramid and part of the ancient Jordanian city of Petra (158 min.) (4.G.) [illegible]

Unmistaken Child [illegible] documentary follows a Tibetan monk on his [illegible] for the reincarnation of his late master, and discovers him as a chubby [illegible] toddler living on a farm. Writer-director [illegible] just tags along and [illegible] the process [illegible] four years [illegible] meetings with the Dalai Lama [illegible] and those of a less contemplative nature may [illegible] (102 min.) (K.V.)

Up Pixar hops on the 3-D [illegible] with this vivid, humorous fantasy. The story follows a plot and [illegible] and his lifelong best pal through courtship and a blissful but earthbound marriage years later the hero, now a bitter old [illegible] (given voice by Ed Asner), rigs his house with balloons, of helium [illegible] in hopes of visiting the South American trip he'd always promised his wife. When he and a young [illegible] land in a mountain jungle populated by a gangly rare bird and a pack of talking dogs, the elderly coot finds himself way out of his comfort zone. Writer-directors Pete Docter and Bob Peterson possess hilarious insights into final bosses and canine psychology, and host marries heroic business, deftly ending with the fabulous truth that only by letting go of the past can we find ourselves to soar (96 min.) [illegible]

Whatever Works When [illegible] actors speak Woody Allen's dialogue they sound like him, when Larry David speaks [illegible] the pivotal words makes him the ideal stand-in and stock [illegible] for the mewling filmmaker. David plays a [illegible] genius of quantum [illegible] who [illegible] a sunny but stupid teenager (Evan Rachel Wood) on the run from her Christian parents in Mississippi. Whether you want to trace [illegible] back to [illegible] marriage to Soon-Yi Previn is your business, but [illegible] never registers as more than a writer's conceit. The [illegible] Allen's return to New York after [illegible] projects shot in Europe, and his Big Apple [illegible] is more [illegible] than ever [illegible] the girl's mother (Patricia Clarkson) and [illegible] (Ed Begley Jr.) [illegible] up, they're [illegible] stereotypes [illegible] only by [illegible] Allen's [illegible] (92 min.) [illegible]

X-Men Origins: Wolverine Parts of *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* don't look nearly as bad as *X-Men: The Last Stand*, which is a mixed compliment. Then again, there are parts that are much worse. Most [illegible] in the story that, despite the movie's [illegible] Wolverine (again played by Hugh Jackman) is shortchanged in terms of a proper origin. For [illegible] we already know pretty much everything we hear about the Weapon X program, except how other mutants [illegible] to create it. We do find out Logan had a brother, Sabretooth (Liev Schreiber) [illegible] whose apparently retarded alter-ego we met in the first X-Men movie [illegible] but the rushed poorly developed script never explains why they [illegible] so much. Maybe you'll care, but probably not (107 min.) [illegible]

Year One In *Year One*, the new [illegible] comedy from Harold Ramis, clumsy hunter Zed (Jack Black) and dull gatherer Oh (Michael Cera) find their teenage tribe after Zed [illegible] from the Tree of Knowledge and [illegible] humorous [illegible] has been chosen by God for something great. This [illegible] of all religions, which comes in goofy [illegible] and the [illegible] that the Book of Genesis and wind up, [illegible] and Cain and Isaac. Ramis' goal is to [illegible] the tenets of the Old Testament, as and [illegible] story of the [illegible] and modern conflicts that arise from these beliefs, but the impact is blunted by the broadness of the approach (97 min.) [illegible]

ONE NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, JULY 2

[illegible] (116 min. 1998) [illegible] Street Cinema (49th St. and Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 8:00)

[illegible] Theatre's NT Live (PCL, 7:00)

TUESDAY, JULY 7

[illegible] (99 min. 1990) In the Realm of [illegible] (PFA, 7:30)

[illegible] (87 min. 2005) Followed by discussion (Humanist Hall, Oakland, 7:30)

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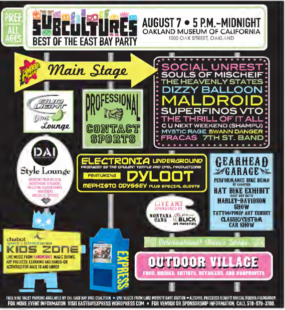

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MUSIC TO SLAY TO

How a gamer used his celebrity in World of Warcraft to launch a music career

By Nate Seltenrich

Joshua Fanene and Michael Bailey of Negative pH

There are those who will stop at nothing to build the best twink. To them, a pendulum of doom, a lumbering ogre axe, and Naxx shoulders are objects of utmost importance. Rogues, priests, warlocks, and warriors alike, they roam the continents of Azeroth completing endless quests and participating in multiplayer tournaments. It takes a rare man to achieve infamy in a fantasy world like this, but that's just what San Leandro resident Michael Bailey, known to his fellow gamers as Fony, accomplished in the popular online role-playing game *World of Warcraft*. Yet even he couldn't have predicted that one day his cyber-world celebrity would bring his real-world electronic music group hundreds of digital download sales and a burgeoning international fanbase.

"The character I created became e-famous," said Bailey. "It's totally nerdy, but it really was an e-fame thing. Even after a year, people would still talk about Fony." Fony was known as a rogue twink — rogue being its character class and *twink* being a term derived from the word *tweak* that refers to maxing out the attributes of a low-level character, like souping up an RC car — that Bailey created a couple of years ago. By playing *World of Warcraft* smartly (and casually, he insists, only a few hours a week) and developing his Fony character, Bailey birthed a legend in the twink community whose reputation endures today.

"Hey, fony, i used to play and u inspired me," commented one fan on a YouTube video Bailey posted last October of his latest gaming exploits. The thirty-minute clip, titled "Greatest Twink Video Ever IV," represents the intersection of Bailey's past and present: Fony, the character he used to be known for, and Negative pH, the band he hopes to be known for next. Although they exist in entirely different worlds, Bailey has discovered that the two are not mutually exclusive. Mixed among YouTube comments about Fony's *World of Warcraft* pedigree are notes from other gamers about the video's soundtrack, which includes samples from Negative pH's new album. "Really good music man," one wrote. "I have been looking for something like this for a long time and I'm loving it." And another: "Love the music. Got to look into negative PH. Are they friends of you or something? Or just a fan like im gonna be?"

To an extent, the cross-pollination has been a happy accident. Blazing along at tempos as fast as 190 bpm, Negative pH's high-octane electronica is just the stuff to psych up gamers for hand-to-hand combat and multiplayer melees. Many of the group's songs adorn drum 'n' bass beats with industrial tones and heavy-metal riffs, blending hard rock's structured aggression with the sustained energy of up-tempo electronica. It's perfect fuel for hour-long journeys across *World of Warcraft*'s virtual plains.

But the accident ends there. Bailey and bandmate Joshua Fanene, who lives in Oakland, were on the verge of completing their second full-length record when Bailey had the idea of using an instructional *World of Warcraft* video to promote the album. "I wanna make this video and kinda cash in on this fan base that I've developed," he told Fanene at the time. Duly encouraged, he set out to create a new video that would document the outfitting of two new twinks. He recorded footage over about three months of gameplay, then edited it down and added music, including a pair of Negative pH songs. When it was complete, Fanene and Bailey refrained from releasing the video until their album was also ready for public consumption.

Both hit the net within a week of each other, and thanks to Bailey's prominence as a gamer and *Warcraft* video producer, the response was immediate. Since October, "Greatest Twink Video Ever IV" has amassed 118,000 downloads at WarcraftMovies.com, making it the most downloaded twink video on the site. On YouTube, the video's four parts have received a cumulative 93,000 views. And every single one of those views has been accompanied by exposure to Negative pH's music.

The way Bailey did it is simple but ingenious: dispersed among a soundtrack featuring James Brown, Jamiroquai, Nine Inch Nails, the Chemical Brothers, and Frank Sinatra are two new Negative pH tracks. The songs by the major artists are familiar enough to draw viewers into the audio, while Bailey's music video-style editing pairs on-screen moods and transitions with parallel moments in the music. All this fosters an ideal launching platform for Negative pH's songs, where viewers become voluntarily invested in music they've never heard before.

Bailey paired this contextual approach with more overt cues. While the video is playing, narrative captions occasionally appear on screen. Some are wonky, as in "I am seriously throwing out a dot nerse and canceling it with tongues ... lawl baddin" (a justification aimed at nitpicking gamers, he admits, "pretty nerdy"), but others reference the soundtrack. The tag "Shameless self promotion: Song is SOS by Negative pH" appears a couple minutes into "SOS," a new song that runs for four-and-a-half minutes. This is followed by an on-screen link to a YouTube video of Bailey and Fanene demoing the song on a pair of keyboards. Later, while an edited version of "SN" plays, another tag gives the name of the new album and directs viewers to Negative pH's web site for DRM-free downloads. *OVRMND*'s front cover provides the video's closing shot.

The ploy worked. Fanene says that over the last six or so months, Negative pH has sold a few hundred digital downloads directly through its web site — a figure any fledgling independent band would be proud to claim, and one that already surpasses sales to date of the duo's 2004 debut. The band also sells about eight downloads a day through CDBaby.com, and even more through iTunes, Napster, and Payloadz. All this comes without any marketing or promotion beyond the video. Fanene says that for every sale the band makes, he searches for the buyer's name on MySpace and Facebook and often comes up with a *World of Warcraft* handle or other evidence of online multiplayer gaming. The customers also happen to be almost entirely male.

"The fans that we've gained from it is awesome," said Bailey. "It was definitely a way to pick up fans in that genre." This success has given him and Fanene the confidence to take their music to the next step — namely, a broader audience. This will involve learning how to perform their programmed songs live, which they are now close to mastering.

"The boost in online sales has given us more urge to get our music out of the studio doors and onto the stage," said Fanene. "While we are keeping a keen eye out for the next major game, we also recognize the importance of establishing a solid local fan base that will give our music the longevity we hope for. Where this takes us is anybody's guess." Bailey, for his part, doesn't want to saturate the online role-playing game market and is already on the lookout for another angle. In the meantime, his fellow twinkers will reign supreme. ●

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INTANGIBLY GOOD

After three years, acoustic duo Ryanhood finally releases new album *The World Awaits*

By Stephen Seigel

Ryanhood

It's the statement uttered perhaps more than any other when a band is discussing its goals: "We want to be able to make a living from playing music." By that measure, Ryanhood is living the dream.

The acoustic duo — lead singer and guitarist Cameron Hood and lead guitarist and singer Ryan Green — has eschewed the normal route to success by largely touring college campuses, playing mostly for what they call "listening audiences" rather than chatty bar patrons who are just there to get loaded.

Green and Hood both attended University High School in Tucson, but they weren't friends in those days. Instead, their respective bands competed against each other in battles of the bands. "I was kind of the shredding guitar player," Green explains, "and he was the soulful singer-songwriter."

"The crooner," says Hood.

Green: "We were playing Joe Satriani covers and he was doing ..."

Hood: "Goo Goo Dolls and Gin Blossoms covers."

At the end of one school year, Hood wrote a generous entry in Green's yearbook about how much he admired his guitar-playing, which warmed up Green to the idea of working together. However, Hood stayed in Tucson to study art at the University of Arizona, while Green headed off to Boston to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music.

During one summer, both worked at a stereo store in Tucson. Hood had amassed some songs that didn't fit his band, and he enlisted Green to help him record them. They hit it off so well that, once Green graduated from Berklee, he invited Hood to move to Boston, where the two made ends meet by playing on the street.

One fateful day while busking, they were approached by a representative of a now-defunct arm of Clear Channel Communications that specialized in booking acts into college campuses. While the two do their own booking these days, they've used the connections they made during that period to continue touring colleges.

Show Details
Ryanhood plays a house party in San Francisco on Saturday, July 11, 8 p.m. E-mail fan@ryanhood.com for details. Ryanhood.com

Green and Hood say there's another benefit to touring colleges. "On that circuit," explains Green, "you're essentially doing free shows for students, and the activities department will hire you to do it. So you get a [guaranteed fee] to go out there; they'll generally put you up for the night somewhere." It certainly doesn't hurt that the music that Ryanhood plays seems tailor-made for the kind of soul-searching in which college students regularly engage.

The group's music is earnest and hopeful, carrying with it an uplifting message. There's a spiritual aspect there, too, but they are quick to point out that they're not a "Christian band," per se. "I've never liked mixing faith and commerce, really," says Green. "It feels kind of icky to me, and I also don't discover music in that channel myself."

Says Hood, "I think there is a lot of spirituality in this record, and a lot of it has to do with the relationship between people and with yourself — which I think is very spiritual. You won't usually find us singing praise songs."

The record to which Hood refers is *The World Awaits*, the new, self-released album that represents a great leap forward for the duo. Ryanhood released either a full-length album or EP every year between 2003 and 2006, but the new album ended up taking about three years to complete. The reasons why are plentiful.

"We had self-produced our last couple of records," says Green, "and it had been advised to us by program directors at [radio] stations that we should take it up a notch production-wise, and just give it a world-class treatment."

With the help of then-manager Gina Rossi, they began sending out e-mails to producers. They eventually settled on Ross Hogarth, who has produced or engineered albums for Ziggy Marley, Jewel, and Melissa Etheridge among many others. Hogarth was juggling a number of projects meanwhile. Ryanhood continued to tour — even while finishing up the album last year, the duo still managed to play 135 live shows. "One of us would get free, and then the other one wasn't," explains Green.

Additionally, Hogarth — who engineered, produced, and mixed the album — didn't hit it off with the band as well as they would have liked. "He had a really high standard that he held us to musically, which we didn't like, but ultimately led to a better product," Hood says. "Our bedside manners didn't mesh very well, so it took us a while to work through that. But musically, the product that we ended up with was worth the wait. He has an incredible ear and brought in incredible musicians to complement what we do."

The World Awaits demonstrates a lot of the band's strengths — their effortless way with a hook, Green's proficiency as a guitarist, their appealing vocal harmonies. As long as the album ends up in the right hands, it's difficult to imagine that it wouldn't end up making a dent at AAA radio stations.

While Green and Hood are proud of the album and want people to hear it, they're opposed to the notion of cramming it down people's throats.

"We're really hoping this record catches on in a very organic way," explains Hood, "that people go, 'Listen to this record, it's good.' ... Our hope is that there's just something intangibly good about it — that it leaves people maybe disarmed, or a little more hopeful than before they pressed play." ●

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BYRNE-ING DOWN THE HOUSE

Live at the Greek Theatre, 6/26

By Briana Hernandez

There's often a convergence of different age groups at shows of performers who have enjoyed lengthy careers. Sometimes it can be awkward. Try lighting a joint at a Pearl Jam concert only to notice you are in the presence of many young children who have accompanied their middle-aged, formerly grunge parents. David Byrne's show at Berkeley's Greek Theatre on Friday June 26 was no exception. The singer-songwriter treated the age-diverse crowd to mostly Talking Heads favorites as well as the best of his latest album with Brian Eno, *Everything That Happens Will Happen Today*.

Byrne's music isn't easy to describe. While the man himself is almost too bizarre, his poetic recitation of lyrics and exaggerated pitch is really the only oddball element to his songs. The most akin musician that comes to mind is post Genesis Peter Gabriel minus five to ten pounds of pomp and circumstance. Byrne's performance at the Greek certainly followed suit. While he needed neither lasers nor smoke machines to transform the stage, he let subtle elements present his point of view without jamming it down your throat. The simple act of dressing himself and his accompaniment all in white was a nice touch.

No one should be surprised by the fact that Byrne now employs a trio of contemporary backup dancers. Granted, the 57 year-old solo artist looks like he's in great shape, but his days of body noodling and forearm chopping are probably numbered. Why not hire a small army to do thy kinesthetic bidding? In all, it was a great choice. Byrne was still very involved with the physical element of the show, even with the jogging-in-place routine for "Life During Wartime." If anyone ever saw *Stop Making Sense*, you know what I'm talking about and have probably said to yourself, "Hmmm. I will never see anything like this live." Wrong. Byrne's show was absolutely thrilling and refreshingly classic. At several points, it seemed the audience had forgotten their age differences, what year it was, and how white Byrne's hair has gotten. They sang the words *Same as it ever was* and became the lyrics themselves. Byrne's ability to transcend niche and era is the stuff of truly great music. ●

David Byrne and his band Matt Sherman

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DESIRE, TEARS, AND WAR

A blanket of self-pity, gritty heart-felt rap and studio pop gold

Eels

Hombre Lobo: 12 Songs of Desire

Misery has always been a source of twisted inspiration for Eels (aka Mark Oliver Everett), a multi-instrumentalist who had the misfortune of having both mother and sister pass away shortly after the release of his 1996 debut *Beautiful Freak*. On his seventh studio album, Everett goes the concept album route by basing three dozen cuts on the self-described notion of desire — "dreadful intense want." Unlike the chamber-pop nuances of his 1998 opus *Electro-Shock Blues*, *Hombre Loco* is a more stripped-down affair punctuated by a trademark creaky vocal style similar to that of Beck.

Yearning wrapped in a blanket of self-pity is a driving motivator whether Everett is moaning about how *if I were that guy instead of me, I'd never let you down* throughout the airy strum and jangle of "That Look You Give That Guy" or growls and yelps about his solitude over a bare-bones rhythm in the sinister "Fresh Blood." Elsewhere, disappointment over missed opportunity casts from the otherwise innocuous gently rocking pop of "My Timing Is Off," while a springy Motown cadence and clanging bells adorn the wedding proposal at the heart of "Beginner's Luck."

But while Everett's creative intentions make for a pleasurable listening experience, nothing here quite sticks to the old brainpan the way past triumphs like "Novocaine for the Soul," "Mr. E's Beautiful Blues," and "Saturday Morning" do. (Vagrant)

— Dave Gil de Rubio

The Jacka

Tear Gas

Few rappers could ever match the Jacka's cult of personality. Roughest of the rough, hardest of the hard — with just enough humanity to be believed. For starters, he named himself to honor his talent for burglary. Then there's the cover art on his new album *Tear Gas*, which depicts an army of young men with gas masks and bullet-proof vests. On the inside flap, he's sitting at home brandishing a shotgun and watching his own "Wanted" ad flash across the TV screen, while a S.W.A.T. team tries to break down his door. Such imagery recalls an earlier era of hip-hop, when Ice Cube made political gangsta albums that were as much about his conflicts with the cops as his dissolute lifestyle. Had Jacka released *Tear Gas* a couple years ago, it might have seemed antiquated. Now, with the Oscar Grant prosecution well underway, he's right on point.

The first single on *Tear Gas* — a two-chord radio hit called "All Over Me" — has anomalous presence on an album that's more about feeling angry and disaffected. *You ain't ready/Nah you will never be*, Jacka sneers on the hook to "Just a Celebrity," a song that reveals his reservations about fame and selling out. It's a political line he maintains for most of the album, on the poignant and painful "Summer," which is about wasting away the summer in jail, on "Heroes," which sounds like a cryptic homage to cop-killers, even on the Beastie Boys spin-off "Girls," on which Jacka declares himself a committed bachelor.

Despite the acerbic content, there are a lot of things to praise about this album, from Jacka's distinctive, half-singing, half-snarling rap voice, to the cameos by Zion I and Devin the Dude, to the melodic beats, which shore up the sentiment in Jacka's tales of the 'hood.

The title *Tear Gas* combines a word for fuel with a word for heart-felt emotion, and alludes to a form of chemical warfare. It's apropos. (The Artist)

— Rachel Swan

LANDy

Eros and Omissions

There are certain people doing so much in their lives that you pause to wonder why you've accomplished so little. Adam Goldberg is one such mega-achiever. Goldberg is an actor (TV's *Entourage* and *The Unusuals*, *Saving Private Ryan*), director (*Running with the Bulls*, *Scotch and Milk*), and a singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist. LANDy is his vehicle for the latter and *Eros and Omissions* is a collection of assorted recordings from 2002 to 2008. It's not "another" vanity project from an actor dabbling in music. This kid has talent, he does. Vocally, Goldberg has a delicate, breathy-wispy, sweet, subtly sarcastic voice similar to Game Theory/Loud Family main-guy Scott Miller and Apples in Stereo's Robert Schneider.

Musically, he sounds as if he's enamored of the very produced, made-in-the-studio pop of the Beatles, Todd Rundgren, XTC (think *Oranges & Lemons*, Dukes of the Stratosphear) and Doug Powell, leaning toward the aforementioned in their dreamy/psychedelic modes. "I Believe in Jack," with its Phil Spector-ish chorus and dramatic, orchestral-style swells, could be an outtake from the Beatles' *Let It Be* sessions. The lush, majestic (dig that Royal-sounding brass and clanging bell) "BFIT" is the last great hit by Electric Light Orchestra that never was.

But it's not slavish recreations Goldberg is after — the loping, sarcastically creepy "Home" and the bitterly dissonant, sarcasm-laden "Your Words Not Mine" reveals he's channeling those influences into something of his own. His lyrics are witty, too. Don't hate him because he's talented, not with such an enjoyable album as this. (Apology Music)

— Mark Keresman

LOCAL LICKS

The Grannies

Hot Flashes

There's perhaps no better way to begin a punk album by six dudes dressed in glam rock grandma garb than with a song called "My Little Finger Says You're Wrong." Still, the Grannies aren't all novelty; their old-school punk rock tunes can be mighty catchy, and the ten-year-old band seems to get tighter with every release. (Wondertaker)

At the Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on July 10, 9 p.m. $10

Sean Christian

Seafood Stir Fry

The beat may be the basis of all hip-hop, but it rarely takes the spotlight. Sean Christian attempts to right that wrong with this collection of fully fledged beats giving equal room to treble (high hat, claps, synth, even live flute and sax) and a fat, booming bottom and Oakland's D-Nek, Zumbi of Zion I, and others lend their voices among a trio of instrumentals. (self-released)

Arboles

Arboles EP

Opener "Roots" applies the Pixies' loud-soft-loud dynamic to an all-acoustic palette, shifting three times from a quiet, nearly lo-fi verse to an amplified, exuberantly strummed chorus. "Our House" isn't Talking Heads, but a cute, whimsical number the Moldy Peaches could've written. And this Oakland duo's emotion-drenched acoustic indie-rock only gets better from there. (self-released)

At the Nomad Café (6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland) on July 11, 7:30 p.m. free

Amber Asylum

Bitter River

Despite the nagging sense that Amber Asylum's neo-classical concoction of angelic vocals and suggestively sinister strings could at any moment break into all-out metal, *Bitter River* is a profoundly calming, almost meditative experience. The metal hunch is not far off: producer and multi-instrumentalist Kris Force worked for years with Oakland experimental group Neurosis. (Profound Lore Records)

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SUNDAY July 5th 6:30pm
all ages $8 21+ $10 under 21
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MONDAYS
Thirsty Artist Open Mic (hi [illegible] provided)

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FRI 7/3
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $15.50-$16.50

[illegible] Roundup Saloon, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 7:30 & 10 pm, $18-$24 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible], 8:30 pm, free

[illegible] swing jam, [illegible] Restaurant, 6:30-9 pm, [illegible]

[illegible] Armando's, 8 pm, $6

[illegible] La Tour de Café, 7 pm, free

[illegible] The Alley, 9 pm, free

[illegible] 9 pm, free

Thursday Night Live [illegible] Zio's [illegible], $15 pm, free

Tribute to [illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Vineyards, 8:15 pm, $78-$100

High Sierra Music Festival w/ John Butler, Umphrey's McGee, Ani DiFranco, [illegible] Del McCoury Band, [illegible] Galactic, [illegible] The Tea Leaf Green, the Waifers, & more, Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds, 11 am, $130-$150 [illegible]

The Harley [illegible] Vineyards Restaurant, 6-9 pm, free

The [illegible] Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

[illegible], 8:30-8 pm, free

[illegible] Starry Plough, 8 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Thursday Night Live live music every week, [illegible], 7 pm, $5-$12

Unplugged [illegible] 11 p.m. Club Anton, 8 pm, $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible], 9 pm, $10-$13

[illegible] 9:30 pm, free

Salsa Night w/ [illegible] Café, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Café du Nord, 9 pm, $10

[illegible] 8-11:30 pm, $15

King's Night all-star blues jam, [illegible] Tavern, 8 & 11:30 pm, free

[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $10

The Tallest Man on Earth w/ [illegible] The Independent, 8 pm, $12-$14

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in [illegible] of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

The Charles Unger Experience [illegible], 6-9 pm, free

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $25-$38

[illegible] Center for the Arts Forum,

6-7:30 pm, free

[illegible] San Francisco-based [illegible] perform live [illegible], Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

[illegible] The Blues Root [illegible] pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] The Knockout, 9 pm, TBA

[illegible] w/ [illegible], the Live Charms, The Eagle Tavern, 9 pm, $6-$10

[illegible] Red Root Lounge, 8 pm, $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible] DNA Lounge, 8 pm, $20-$25

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8:30 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] the Globe, [illegible] Hill, 9 pm, $13

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Warfield, 8 pm, $65.50-$75.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The Brooklyn [illegible] SF Presents: [illegible] Wright w/ [illegible] Red, Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 pm, $30

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] 9:30 pm, free

Flamenco Thursdays [illegible] Pequeña, [illegible], 8:30 pm, $10

FRIDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] String Quartet Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$20

I Like My Bike Night #2 w/ [illegible] Justin Ancheta, [illegible], 8 pm, $8, [illegible] $10

[illegible] w/ Justin Ancheta, [illegible] Café, 7:30-9:30 pm, free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 7:30 pm, $18-$24, kids matinee $5

[illegible] Saloon, 8 pm, free

[illegible] Kaplan Hall, 9 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Anna's Jazz [illegible] 8 pm, $12

First Friday Follies burlesque night, [illegible] Stork Club, 8 pm, free

[illegible] The Alley, 9 pm, [illegible]

[illegible] 8 pm, free

[illegible] & Friends [illegible] pm, $8

Tribute to [illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Blakes on Telegraph, 9 pm, $10

[illegible] & Varieties, 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $6

[illegible] the Stork Club, 9 pm, free

High Sierra Music Festival w/ John Butler, Umphrey's McGee, Ani DiFranco, [illegible] Del McCoury Band, [illegible] Tea Leaf Green, [illegible] Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds, 11 pm, $130-$150 [illegible] $30-$50

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], 7:30 pm, $48.50-$78.50

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Lake Wayside Park, 7-8:30 pm, free

[illegible] Record Shop & Café, 7:30 pm, [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] El Balazo, 8 pm, free

[illegible] Quartet on Square, 7:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Jackie Payne and Steve Edmonson Band [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 5 pm, TBA

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Ensemble w/ [illegible], Boom Boom Room, 10 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $25-$38

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Red Root Lounge, 8 pm, $25

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 5 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8:30 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 7:30 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Independent, 5 pm, $20-$23

[illegible] Buena Vista-style Latin dancing w/ [illegible], 8:30 pm, $13.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Total Azeri, [illegible] Pier 50, 8 pm, $10

SATURDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Saddle Rack, 7:15 pm, $5

[illegible] the Fight [illegible] Burlesque, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 7 pm, $18-$24 kids matinee $5

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Symphony 23rd Annual 4th of July Presents Spectacular featuring [illegible] 2001: A Space Odyssey, The Tribute to Star Wars, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 8 pm, $24-$29.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Café Van Kleef, 9 pm, $10

Burlesque [illegible] featuring [illegible] Café Van Kleef, 9 pm, $10

[illegible], 8 pm, free

Johnny [illegible] Armando's, 9 pm, $5

[illegible] 8 pm, free

[illegible] & the Mighty [illegible] Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $14

[illegible] The Alley, 9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

An Evening w/ [illegible] 8:30 pm, free

High Sierra Music Festival w/ John Butler, Umphrey's McGee, Ani DiFranco, [illegible] Del McCoury Band, [illegible] Tea Leaf Green, the [illegible] & more, Plumas/Sierra County Fairgrounds, 11 am,

PICKS

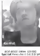
The Itals

The Itals may have never been quite as widely known as fellow vocal trios Culture, Israel Vibration, and the Mighty Diamonds, but this outfit is still much beloved by reggae aficionados thanks to a slate of classic Jamaican sides that include "Time Will Tell," "Don't Wake the Lion," and "Brutal." After making significant headway in the 1980s as a roots crew during a time when dancehall was dominating reggae, the Itals' recorded output has been spotty in the ensuing years. Last year found them making a welcome return with *It's a Dog Ya Time*, a compilation spearheaded by a title cut Keith Richards once called "the perfect reggae track." With founding member Keith Porter still at the helm, these soulful Jamaicans and the Revival Sound System will be amazing a most irie time on Wednesday, July 8, at **Ashkenaz** (1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley). 10 p.m., $15-$20. Ashkenaz.com *— Dave Gil de Rubio*

Kaz Well

Japanese-American rapper **Kaz-Well** sings the heart-rending relationship blues on his debut album *Fish Outta Water*, a sweet, confessional album that fits well in the tradition of backpacker hip-hop. Driven heavily by mellow pop samples, the album has a breezy, syrupy sound, but his one cameo by local chanteuse Odessa Chen. Kaz-Well celebrates his album release on Friday, July 3, at San Francisco's **Horizon** club (498 Broadway St.), with special guest performances by Michelle Martinez, Keelay & Zaire, Hople Spitshard, and Du Bavangelist, plus his whole coterie of DJs. 10 p.m., free food provided by Hand Kaza Cafe. Kaz-Well.com *— Rachel Swan*

Shay Tripathi



Kaz-Well

San Francisco Opera

Given Oakland's situation, **San Francisco Opera** is just about the only classical game in town. But there's a special reason to attend this week. On Thursday, July 2, Adler Fellow **David Lomelí** sings his second and final "second cast" performance as Alfredo in *La Traviata*. Although Lomelí is still young, and his interpretation will undoubtedly mature, the voice is so glorious that I expect he will soon be in demand by opera houses worldwide. At the **War Memorial Opera House** (301 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco), 7:30 p.m., $20-$290, standing room $10. SFOpera.com or 415-864-3330 *— Jason Victor Serinus*

VidyA

VidyA

Led by fabulously talented saxophonist **Prasant Radhakrishnan**, **VidyA** is a local group with an international sensibility. Radhakrishnan plays Carnatic music, a classical form from South India. Having graduated from University of Southern California's prestigious jazz studies program, he's a master technician with fascinating ideas about rhythm and time. More importantly, he's able to blend the disciplines into a coherent whole. East West music appears to be gaining currency in the jazz world, but few do it with Radhakrishnan's degree of polish and panache. He'll grace **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero W., Oakland) on Monday, July 6, with **David Ewell** on bass and **Sameer Gupta** on drums. 8 p.m., $10. Yoshis.com *— Rachel Swan*

Mose Allison and Bob Dorough

Mose Allison is one of the most unique songwriters in the history of jazz. A surprise hit of his version of Willie Dixon's "Seventh Son" in 1957 made him a pop star briefly, but it's his catalog of laid-back, slightly cynical tunes that has made him a legend. Songs like "Your Mind Is on Vacation, but Your Mouth Is Working Overtime" and "Middle Class White Boy" combine down-home humor and jazzy blues-based melodies in a way that can never be duplicated. **Bob Dorough**, another acerbic songwriter and pianist, may be best known for the tunes he composed for the *Schoolhouse Rock* series, but he has written hits for Mel Tormé ("Comin' Home Baby") and Miles Davis ("Blue Xmas") and has a back catalog that rivals Allison's in its depth and skewed outlook. Both play at **Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero W., Oakland) on Thursday, July 2, 7:30 & 10 p.m.; Friday, July 3, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 4, 7 p.m.; and Sunday, July 5, 2 & 7 p.m. $18-$24, $5 for kid's matinee. Yoshis.com *— J. Poet*

(510) 548-8500, children $30-$50
Last Call Vienna's Bar & Grill, 9:30 pm, free
Los Amigos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $5, kids $4
Main West Honest Cafe, 7:30-9:30 pm, free
Ska Night [illegible], plus free barbecue, 924 Gilman, 7 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Groove Folk Entertainment Kimball's Carnival, 8 pm, free
Rapscowl Victor Band 4th of July celebration, Fotos Santos Plaza, 11 am, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Harold Saa w/ Duhascayn's "Afro Project," La Taza de Cafe, 1:30 pm, free
Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands, Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free
Sotcope Bakama w/ DJ Reuben, Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10, $8 [illegible]

Yamamoto [illegible] [illegible], 9:30 pm, $10-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Dutch Flowers Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $20
[illegible] [illegible] folk music w/ [illegible] Cafe, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

24th Annual Fillmore Jazz Festival featuring [illegible], Yoshi's San the Seraph Blues Band, the Coltrane Church, [illegible], Lavay Smith, Lloyd Gregory, Marcus Shelby Orchestra, Gila & the Bossanova Experience, & more. Fillmore St., 10 am-6 pm, free
The Charles Unger Experience Bar 888, 8-10 pm, free
Eastwood Kent [illegible], 9-11 pm, free
Gerald Albright Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 pm, $25-$34
Tonya Serrao & Her Little Big Band Brasa Room, 11:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Hi Ho Big Time Freedom Fest featuring Tarlah, [illegible], Low Pool, [illegible], Sunday the Thief, [illegible], 2 pm, $8
30th & [illegible] Happy Hour Show w/ local bands, The Parkside, 3-8 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Glorified Players 4th of July party, Park Chalet Brewery, 1 pm, free

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C&C

Saturday Night Soul Party w/ [illegible] Paul Paul, & [illegible], Elbo Room, 10 pm, $8.

SUNDAY 5

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Paramount Unplugged live Vineyards Paramount & old-time w/ rotating artists, Jupiter, 5 pm, free.

Danny Campbell & Friends Roundup Saloon, 5 pm, free.

Yer & Chris Prior [illegible] Cafe, 11 am-1 pm, free.

[illegible] & Bob Dorough Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$26; kids matinee $5.

Paramount Irish Session with Shay Black Starry Plough, 8 pm, sliding scale.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Delbert Bump Show [illegible] Armando's, 3 pm, free.

Art Sawyer's Night Lodge [illegible], Anna's Jazz Island, 5 pm, $12.

[illegible] Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free.

Rock & Pop

High Sierra Music Festival w/ John Vader, Umphrey's McGee, Ani DiFranco, [illegible] the Del McCoury [illegible] Monarch Dairy Engine featuring Melvin Seals, [illegible] Marco Benevento Trio, [illegible] the Waifers, & more, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 11 am, $136-$150, children $30-$50.

This Time Next Year w/ [illegible] First to Leave, A Second to Last, [illegible] on Telegraph, 8:30 pm, $8, under 21 $10.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Flamenco [illegible] w/ [illegible] McGuire, Tete de Lola, & [illegible] Cruz, Rosewood, 7:30 pm, $10.

SAN FRANCISCO

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible] for Sunday champagne [illegible] Top of the Mark, 10 am-2 pm, $58 for [illegible] gratuity and tax.

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Union Hall, 7:30 pm, $10. [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

25th Annual [illegible] Jazz Festival [illegible] and the Smooth Blues [illegible], the Coltrane Church, [illegible], Kim Nalley, [illegible] Orchestra, [illegible] & the Afrofunk Experience, & more, Fillmore St., 10 am-6 pm, free.

[illegible] a [illegible] sound [illegible] and [illegible] of pop-culture [illegible] in which [illegible] travels around the world at [illegible], 2 & 5 pm, $23-$77.

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $31-$36.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], & [illegible] Annie's Social Club, 5 pm, $8.

Terry Savastano Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 5 pm, free.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Ensemble music and [illegible] from the Middle East, [illegible], 8:30 pm, $10.

MONDAY 6

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

"Uptown Hubba Hubba" live burlesque w/ Hubba Hubba Revue, [illegible], 8 pm, $6.

Vidya Yoshi's, 8 pm, $10.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill, 8 pm, free.

[illegible] Unplugged [illegible] Tavern, 7:30 & 11:30 pm, free.

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ [illegible]

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21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263

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4-Lounge on Solano 1403 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-1237

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926

Air Bar & Lounge 492 [illegible] St., [illegible], 510-444-2377

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com

The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505

[illegible] Music 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-[illegible]

Anna's Jazz Island 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-841-5299

[illegible] [illegible] Ave., [illegible], 510-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054

[illegible] [illegible] Hopyard, Pleasanton, 925-426-[illegible]

Bay Street [illegible] 5616 Bay St., Emeryville

Blakes's 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886

[illegible] 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-444-[illegible]

[illegible] Center for the Arts [illegible] Lincoln St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Club Bar [illegible] Way, [illegible] Creek, 925-[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-[illegible]

Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886

[illegible] on Telegraph (upstairs) 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886

[illegible] 500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible]

[illegible] 115 E. Vineyard Ave., Livermore, 925-[illegible]

Club [illegible] 1228 [illegible] St., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]

Club Anton 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

25th Room 125 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Coffee Mill 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224

College Lane [illegible] St., [illegible], 925-229-3341

[illegible] Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] Irish Sports Bar 1524 [illegible] Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible]

Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4911

[illegible] & Jazz [illegible] [illegible] Oakland, 510-[illegible]

First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555

Fox [illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] Berkeley, 510-[illegible]

Freight & Salvage 1111 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761

[illegible] Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-[illegible]

[illegible] Alameda [illegible] [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 2081 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373

[illegible] Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible]

Jack's [illegible] & [illegible] 1223 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277

[illegible] [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Kimball's [illegible] 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

King Tsin Chinese Restaurant 1875 Solano Ave., Berkeley

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464

Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-9220

Kitty's 6312 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568

La [illegible] de Café [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Lakeshore [illegible] [illegible] Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Lost Weekend Lounge 1320 Park Ave., Alameda, 510-523-[illegible]

[illegible] 2271 [illegible], Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland, 510-839-[illegible]

[illegible] Lounge 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible]

[illegible] 6500 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Oakland City Center [illegible] 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Oakland [illegible] Opera House 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-[illegible]

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Pleasanton Hotel 855 Main St., Pleasanton, 925-846-[illegible]

[illegible] 1831 [illegible], Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 415 13th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible]

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Saddle Rack 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0477

[illegible] 2284 [illegible], Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, [illegible]

[illegible] 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible]

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174

[illegible] 404 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible]

[illegible] 1820 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

Velvet 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-531-[illegible]

The [illegible] 2272 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 510-[illegible]

[illegible]'s Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-[illegible]

[illegible] Vineyards [illegible] 5065 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-[illegible]

[illegible] Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-[illegible]

[illegible] Inn [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]

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BEST OF THE EAST BAY
BAND SPOTLIGHT

PERFORMING ON THE MAIN STAGE:

THE HEAVENLY STATES

RELEASES:

Delayer (2008)
Black Comet (2005)
King Epiphany (2003)
The Heavenly States s/t (2003)

BAND MEMBERS:

Ted Hesseth (Guitar) **Jeremy Gagon** (Drummer)
Genevieve Gagon (Vocals) **Mark Christranson** (Bass)

BAND BIO:

The Heavenly States have been performing in the Bay Area for seven years. Dubbed "Oakland's answer to the Clash" following their 2005 trip to Libya, this rock-indie-garage outfit came about when bandleader Ted Hesseth met drummer Jeremy Gagon through a roommate service. Hesseth is a self taught lefty who plays guitar upside-down and backwards with thick unwound strings which make for a unique sound and voicing. Genevieve Gagon, co-lyricist, brings string and key arrangements to the mix. Mark Christranson has played bass for the band since 2007. The band has quietly released several critically acclaimed records, Delayer (2008), Black Comet (2005), King Epiphany (2003), The Heavenly States s/t (2003), and a collectible 7-inch single with Coldplay and The Postal Service. They are preparing to record their fourth full-length album.

As trends in music and palettes of cool come and go, the group has kept its small but dedicated following in part due to their mildly outsider status. "Backstage artist banter this year at SXSW is all over the map. If you don't have character, there's no need to worry about breaking it. I don't have to get up in the morning and remember to wear moonboots to the coffee shop in 80-degree weather in order to maintain cred with the local scene," says Genevieve. "I don't need to start a new band because I want to wear a sweater instead of a nose ring. I can wear an imaginary nose ring in one song and an imaginary sweater in the next." Meanwhile, Ted and Eugene Mirman (Flight of the Conchords) discuss the nitty gritty of survival on the road and in this business, summed up as "the bible hunt for the red banana." Later Genevieve states frankly, "All legitimate science is initiated by an act of madness." Within the eclecticism displayed by the band from song to song and also, it seems, in their own minds, there is a consistency of attitude that recalls The Fall or early Talking Heads with the anti-posturing of Gang of Four. As Genevieve has hinted, the term "character" is much in play.

You can see The Heavenly States play live at The Uptown Nightclub in Oakland on Friday, July 3rd.

WEBSITE: WWW.THEHEAVENLYSTATES.COM

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Steve Smith and Vital Information Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $22

TUESDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Country Western Steam Night w/ lessons, Wendy's Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 pm, free
Zydeco Mondo plus Cajun dance lesson at 8 pm, Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Angelo Mastrantonio piano music, Campo di Bocce, 6-9 pm, free
Bob Mintzer & Friends Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $17
Red Stone dinner jazz w/ guest Bottom singers, The Alley, 4 pm, free
Time Out Caffe Trieste, 7-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Fremont Blues performing two sets, Bottom 4 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Bossa Tres Neto Santos Plaza, 6:30 pm, free
Cumbancha Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

the Haunts Fantastikos w/ Serious Sam Barrett, Fancy Dan Band, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $6
Realistic Orthenka Bruno's, 4 pm, $6
the Blues Release Experience Pier 23, 8:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Moons w/ the Notorious, Club Moon, 8 pm, $6
Diego's Realistic Pub Chalet Brewery, 8:30 pm, free
Ship Projectors w/ What's Up?, The Independent, 4 pm, $14
Blues Magic The Fillmore, 8 pm, $75
Righteous w/ the Fucking Blues Young Lovers, 4 Gang of Forty, The Fransisco, 8 pm, free
Franksen, Tigers w/ Frankson, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10
Franklin, Ranch Hands w/ Retronauts, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $24
Rock 'n' Roll with Steve Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5:30 pm, free
Tornado Ride w/ Warren Tangendert, the Coronet Mill Lounge/Vox, Willow of the Hill, 8 pm, $6

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Steve Smith and Vital Information Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $22

WEDNESDAY 8

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Chip Taylor w/ Kendel Carson, Freight & Salvage, 4 pm, $18.50-$19.50

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Improvised Jazz featuring Josh Andrews, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, $6-$10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Julian Waters Group Anna's Jazz Island, 8 pm, $17
Bottom Gold Jazz Band Stork Park, 7-9 pm, free
Red Stone dinner jazz w/ guest Bottom singers, The Alley, 4 pm, free
Steve and Farah Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $24
Bread Blues Songwriters Assn. Songwriter Competition Ashkenaz, 7:30 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

Three Three Realistic Wesey, 7:30 pm, $17.50-$148.50
Music Collective w/ Fresh Crue and the New Club Two Colors, Stork Club, 8 pm, $5

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Bottom Jupiter, 5 pm, free
The Move Love Band Elmwood City Center, 12-1 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

The Dale w/ Festival Sound System, Ashkenaz, 10 pm, $15-$20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Steve Roach The Fillmore, 8 pm, $38.50
Lucinda Williams Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Marcela Amaury Bruno's 3:00 Club, 8 pm, $25
Frank Mueller Ribbons Musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Steve White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77
Don Morrone and the Montero Blues Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10
the Everlasting Spiral Ensemble Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $10-$14

Rock & Pop

Ant Gothers & a Million Different People w/ Mossel, Gay Moore & the Dangerous Summer, Bottom of the Hill, 7:30 pm, $12
City Walls Of Brisene w/ Realistic Bands, Ben Flanagan, & Bandits featuring Wideman, Slop, 7:30 pm, $10
Moment of Life w/ the Oat's, Boy in Static, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $8
Nightmare of You w/ Phantom Magic, & Briar Burz, Cafe du Nord, 4 pm, $10-$12
Peterson Hood & Silverbangers w/ the Stone Foxes, The Independent, 8 pm, $20
Terry Sievertson Johnny Foley's Irish House, 4 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Shotgun Wedding Hip-Hop Symphony Yoshi's San Francisco, 10 pm, $10-$14 ●

CLUB DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

222 Club 222 Hyde St., 415-440-2227
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St., 415-974-1585
Audium 1616 Bush St., 415-771-1616
[illegible] Bar & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl., 415-392-4750
[illegible] Restaurant and Band Room 448 Larkin St., 415-904-4100
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St., 415-831-5620
Beach Chalet 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] 299 [illegible] St., 415-284-1323
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-0365
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016
Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-552-7390
[illegible] 300 [illegible] St., 415-567-2005
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332
[illegible] 312 Harriet St., 415-621-1722
The Cellar 685 Sutter St., 415-441-5678
[illegible] 295 9th St., 415-255-6830
Club Fugazi 678 Green St., 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St., 415-863-1221
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000
Dirty Martini 2001 Leavenworth St., 415-776-5187
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St., 415-643-8592
the Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
El Rincon 2700 16th St., 415-437-9240
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788
[illegible] Lounge 1920 Geary St., 415-474-1302
The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-646-0999
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000
Glas Kat 520 4th St., 415-283-1466
The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave., 415-673-4716
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
[illegible] 488 Van Ness Ave., 415-352-4459
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421
Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd., 415-386-6173
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994
[illegible] Lounge 1710 Mission St., 415-864-5585
[illegible] 500 Divisadero St., 415-434-0797
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888.
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
The [illegible] 66 West Portal Ave.
[illegible] Whisky 1008 Harrison St., 415-454-5238.
Park Chalet Garden 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] 1190 Powell St., 415-840-9000
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695.
[illegible] Lounge 819 20th St., 415-826-7380
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St., 415-861-2011
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Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-503-0393
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St., 415-616-6916
[illegible] 508 Bush St., 415-956-8000.
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the Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600 ●

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 2

EAST BAY

Amnesia w/ DJs [illegible] spinning Afro-Latin, cumbia, salsa, & dancehall. La Tour de Café, 10 pm, $8 [illegible]

The Big Man of Bar Room. DJ Gary [illegible] house & disco music. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, free

Culture Fusion [illegible] [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible] disco-punk, [illegible] [illegible] 10 pm, [illegible]

Brothers and Sisters w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible] spinning [illegible] dance music, & [illegible] world. The Vibe Lounge, 10 pm, free

Club 420 Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible] Club Aztlan, 9 pm, $20 [illegible] 10 pm

Club Fever w/ [illegible] spinning reggae & dancehall. [illegible] Restaurant, 10 pm, Bar

College Night w/ DJ and DJ Joe G. spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & Top 40. [illegible] Horse Inn, 9 pm, $10; students $free w/ valid ID

College Night DJ [illegible] spins hip-hop, [illegible] [illegible] $5 [illegible] college students only ID required. [illegible] on Telegraph, 9:30 pm, $2-$20 sliding scale

Culture Thursdays hip-hop, DJs spinning reggae & world beat. Air Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ [illegible] spinning eclectic [illegible]. Ruby's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Jerry [illegible] spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ Topic [illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm, Bar

DJ [illegible] spinning lounge, [illegible] Lounge, 1 pm-2 am, free

Electric [illegible] Pop [illegible] Rock DJ [illegible] spins reggae, [illegible] 1 [illegible] [illegible] 10 pm, free

[illegible] DJ [illegible] spins soul & R&B. [illegible] Room, 9 pm, free

Happy Hour w/ DJ [illegible] spinning reggae, [illegible] salsa, [illegible] [illegible] & funk. [illegible], 7 pm, Bar

Latin Night w/ Dave, Club 1220, 8 pm, free

Lip Sheet women's party w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible] Room, spinning hip-hop, [illegible] 9 pm-2

Mixtape [illegible], $5, $5 after 11pm

Over Bar Gage w/ DJs spinning power pop, punk, & glam. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

[illegible] indie and mash-ups, new wave [illegible] 10 pm-2 am, Bar

[illegible] DJ [illegible] "[illegible]" spins big band jazz, rockabilly, [illegible], country '60s soul, mixed strokes, [illegible] Forbidden Island, 1:30 pm, free

Tasty lookin' night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. [illegible] & Bar [illegible] pm, $12

Temple of Boom w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Thursday Throwdown w/ DJ [illegible] the Vinyl Archaeologist and guests spinning hip-hop, classics, '80s, [illegible], [illegible], funk, [illegible] [illegible], Bar

Unity w/ DJs [illegible] Bar Bar [illegible] & Air Bar & Lounge, 5-10 pm, free [illegible] 7 p.m., 10

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 [illegible], [illegible], Dangerous Dan, & [illegible] spinning '80s & new wave. Cat Club, 9 pm, free [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $6

Afrolicious w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible] spinning Afro-beat, [illegible] funk. Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6

[illegible] by [illegible] $3 [illegible] [illegible] The Brothers [illegible] 7:30-11 pm, Bar

College Night DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin hip-hop, hyphy, R&B & more. The [illegible], 11 pm, Bar

Compression w/ resident DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & Audio Angel, plus guests, spinning drum 'n' bass. [illegible] highballs. 10 pm, $5-$10

[illegible] Party w/ DJs [illegible] and [illegible] 10 pm, $5-$15

DJ [illegible] spinning electro to retro. [illegible] Bar, 9 pm, Bar

DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funky [illegible] & underground hip-hop. [illegible] Bar, [illegible], Bar

[illegible] Thursdays w/ [illegible] DJs spinning [illegible] funk, pop, rock, mashups, & house. [illegible] 9 pm, free

[illegible] This w/ hip-hop, live spinning underground music in the Catacombs. [illegible] 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Kung Fu [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funk, soul, reggae, hip-hop, & break [illegible] 9 pm, free

[illegible] House Dance Lady! [illegible] Room, Center for the Arts Forum, 12:30-1:30 pm, Bar

Junk [illegible] spinning funk, punk, ska, [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible] [illegible], 9

[illegible] Bar, 10 pm, **Bar Room**, $6-$30 p.m. $3

Lunar Room w/ DJ White Heat and friends spinning space [illegible] The Brothers, 10 pm, Bar

Midnight w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] spinning club and dancehall, & urban soul. [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soulful Latin rhythms. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, Bar before 11:30 p.m., $10 thereafter

Night [illegible] DJs [illegible] King & Swagger spin booty [illegible] & [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, Bar

[illegible] rotating DJs. The Endup, 10 pm, $10

Providence Thursdays ages thirty-plus party w/ DJ Swish spinning R&B and funk. Levende Lounge, 9 pm-2 am, Bar

[illegible] [illegible] & DJ [illegible] [illegible] spin hip-hop, [illegible] '80s, & remixes. [illegible] Bar, 9 pm, free

Reggae Top Thursdays w/ [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], & [illegible] spinning reggae. Club Six, 9 pm-2 am, $5, Bar [illegible] 11 p.m. w/ RSVP

[illegible] [illegible] w/ DJs the Hunter, [illegible], & Aron, plus special [illegible] 9 pm, $10

FRIDAY 3

EAST BAY

Element Fridays w/ hip-hop, DJs spinning R&B, neo-soul, & club classics. Asmara Bar & Grill, 10 pm, $10, [illegible] 11 p.m. $5

Flashback Fridays DJs Spair & [illegible] [illegible] spin old-school hip-hop and funk. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Latin [illegible] DJ Jorge [illegible] spins [illegible] salsa, merengue, [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] Bar, 9 pm-2 am, $10

[illegible] Tropical Lounge DJ [illegible] spinning Cuban music & Latin soul. La Tour de Café, 10 pm, Bar

[illegible] DJ Joe [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & [illegible] 10 pm, Bar

Retro-[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] '80s pop night. Ruby's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Soul Fridays DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin R&B & soul. [illegible] Carnival, 9 pm, $10

Workshop Dance Party featuring Cyman & the Cameras, La Peña Cultural Center, 9 pm, $10-$12

SAN FRANCISCO

Popscene vs. Loaded dance party w/ the Lovemakers, Amazing Baby, Pleasure-Sluts, 10 pm, $10

[illegible] **[illegible]** w/ DJs Bala, [illegible] Toppers & [illegible], [illegible]. 10 pm, $8

PICK

Mixtape

The July 4 weekend is upon us, and Bay Area fingerpeople should get their antsy butts to **Red, White and Booze** — a debauchery-filled dance party with DJ sets from Mixtape, Double Dragon, and Total Mind Fuck. The Uptown is fresh off its super-secret Green Day show, which can be NSFE, and returns to service locals with appearances by Mixtape's DJs Gabrielle and Emily, whom you can count on to play the likes of the Ramones, Kool and the Gang, Phoenix, Dataxonik, Too Short, and Kaak De Snook. Double Dragon features the highly destructive duo Emily Harrison and Brian [illegible] full force. On Saturday July 4, 9 p.m., free. Uptown Nightclub.com — *David Downs*

SATURDAY 4

EAST BAY

All Productions & [illegible] [illegible] spinning R&B & hip-hop. [illegible], 10 pm, Bar

Club [illegible] DJs [illegible] & Soul Fiction spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $10

DJ Joe [illegible] [illegible] 10 pm-2 am, Bar

East Bay Honky-Tonk DJ 50 States spins [illegible] country, bluegrass, alt-country, honky-tonk, blues, & more. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Eve [illegible] party for women only. Velvet, 9 pm, free

Freaky-Deaky DJ [illegible] and guests spin hip-hop, R&B, [illegible], and rock. Cabaret [illegible] 9 pm, Bar

[illegible] Night Bar w/ DJ Page [illegible], The [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Hot Night w/ DJ Robbie Martin, [illegible] on, 9 pm, $5

House Saturdays Club 1220, 9 pm, $5

La [illegible] Loca Latino hip-hop night w/ DJs spinning salsa, merengue, & [illegible], plus hot-go-go [illegible], House & Bar, 9 pm, $12

Magic [illegible] Room DJ [illegible] & [illegible], host [illegible] extravaganza. Ruby's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, Bar

Pop History 101 DJs [illegible] pop, hip-hop, [illegible] to Michael Jackson. Ruby Room, 10 pm, Bar

Red, White, and Booze! [illegible] party [illegible] Mixtape, Double Dragon, & Total Mind Fuck. Uptown, 9 pm, Bar

[illegible] Saturdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] Club Aztlan, 9 pm, $5 [illegible] 10 p.m., 10

[illegible] Night DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] merengue, & more. Conga Lounge, 10:30 pm, free

SAT R DAY w/ DJs Max Kane & [illegible] Easy Lounge, 10 pm, Bar

Session Saturdays DJ Jamo & guests spin reggaeton, future funk, neo-soul, & [illegible] Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, $10

Speaker Session w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, [illegible], and progressive house. Parkway Lounge, 9 pm, Bar

Brothers w/ DJ Fluid Cut spinning hip-hop, R&B. [illegible] Lounge, 6-10 pm, Bar

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, & old-school. Jelly's Pier 50, 10 pm, ladies free before 11 p.m., $10

Boys & Girls w/ DJs [illegible] [illegible], & [illegible] spinning international soul, [illegible] & soul [illegible] Cozen, 9 pm, $10

Club Downtown w/ DJ [illegible] spinning Bay Area club. Bar [illegible], 10 pm, Bar before 11 p.m. with [illegible]

Club [illegible] w/ [illegible] DJs spinning reggae & [illegible] Pier 23, 10 pm, $15

DJ [illegible] [illegible] Bar, 8 pm, free

DJ Eric Lacy Levende Lounge, 10 pm, Bar

El [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning cumbia, reggaeton, [illegible] and world dance-pop. [illegible] Room, 10 pm, $5

[illegible] Saturdays w/ DJ Chris [illegible] spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $5

[illegible] [illegible] house & [illegible] w/ [illegible] DJs Sammy & Craig [illegible] [illegible] The Endup, 10 pm, free before 11 p.m., $15

[illegible] DJs [illegible] & Sam [illegible] spin [illegible] beats. Skull Bar, 10 pm, free [illegible] 10:30 p.m., $5

[illegible] DJ [illegible] & [illegible] '80s. John Hughes soundtrack songs, [illegible] & more. [illegible] Bar, 9 pm, Bar

New York City '80s [illegible] party. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, [illegible] 11 p.m., $12

[illegible] Soul w/ DJs Fang Fu Chris, [illegible] [illegible] spin rare groove, soul, funk. Productions & hip-hop. [illegible], 10 pm, Bar

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning hip-hop and club [illegible], 9 pm, free [illegible] 10 p.m., $10 after

Stilt Kickin' It disco & [illegible] party with DJ [illegible], And, 9 pm, Bar

Tele Lounge DJs spinning [illegible] hip-hop, [illegible] & funky house. [illegible] Bar, 10 pm, $20

SUNDAY 5

SAN FRANCISCO

Dub [illegible] w/ DJ Sep, [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible], spinning dub, roots, & dancehall reggae. Elbo Room, 9 pm, $10

Super Soul Sundays w/ DJ [illegible] & guests. The Endup, 9 pm, $5

TUESDAY 7

EAST BAY

DJ [illegible] Ruby's Lucky Lounge, 8 pm, Bar

DJ [illegible] and Friends spinning reggae, live roots, Cato's Ale House, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible], Monday w/ hip-hop DJs, Annie's Social Club, 9 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 8

EAST BAY

CulturePop Room w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] spinning disco and house. Room, on Telegraph, 9 pm, $5

Culture Wednesdays DJ [illegible] & hip-hop, [illegible], [illegible] reggaeton, & hip-hop [illegible] [illegible] at 9 p.m., Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1984 [illegible] and [illegible] Room, club, Edinburgh Castle, 10 pm, free

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible] guests spinning reggae & dancehall. [illegible], 9 pm, free

[illegible] Happy Hour The Brothers, 4-9 pm, Bar

[illegible] spinning hip-hop, soul, & R&B, [illegible], 9 pm, free

Toby's Oldies DJ Toby Cow spins [illegible] Motown & more. [illegible] 11:30 pm, Bar

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BEST OF THE EAST BAY
BAND SPOTLIGHT

PERFORMING ON THE MAIN STAGE:

C U
NEXTWEEKEND

RELEASES:
"CU Next Weekend" EP (2009)

BAND MEMBERS:
H B K (Vocals) Mr 1derful (Vocals) Dan Lawrence (Guitar)
Ladante Smith (Drums) Brett Zadio (Bass) Clay Barnett (Guitar)
Elliott "ET" Peltzman (Keys)

BAND BIO:
C U Next Week was formed by founding members Denelectric and HBK. Denelectric, the producer and musician and HBK the lyricist/vocals were seeking to form a band that was out of bounds. They were determined to create a new sound and style.

Growing up in Northern California, the duo work together at many music showcases. They both have a love of live Rock and Alternative music, so they decided to form a band. The members include HBK (vocals) Mr 1derful (vocals) Dan (lead) LaDante (drums), Clay (lead), Brett (bass) and Elliott (keyboard).

C U Next Weekend created a unique sound fused from Alternative, Rock, EMO and other musical genres.

Based in Berkeley California C U Next Weekend is known for party music as they bring fun and excitement to every show.

WEBSITES: WWW.MYSPACE.COM/CUNEXTWEEKEND

SAVAGE LOVE

GETTING THE EX TO TEACH THE BOYFRIEND

And a word on the Sanford scandal

By Dan Savage

I'm a 25-year-old straight female. I've been dating my boyfriend for only a few months but we fell in love fast. He is a caring person and I want to make this last. However, he doesn't turn me on. It has nothing to do with looks — he's GORGEOUS — but rather with the fact that I am submissive and like things rough (rape fantasies, being tied up, etc.). He is GGG and tries, but he is just too tame! The last guy I dated used to toss me around like a rag doll and I was being dominated.

I talked to my wonderful GGG boyfriend, and he agreed right away to have a threesome with my previous guy. I haven't talked to the previous guy yet, but I'm sure he'd be into it. This threesome would allow my ex to do something really kinky, which I know he would love, and I would get the abuse I need and my boyfriend would get a "lesson" in the art of sub/dom sex. But:

1. Am I being a selfish bitch?

2. Is it a bad sign that he's not satisfying me sexually at three months?

Needs Some Abuse

1. You have needs, and you're articulating them clearly and thoughtfully; you're being considerate and deliberate. And yeah, you're also being a selfish bitch. Good for you.

We all have a right to be a little selfish when it comes to sex. You have needs and you want them met. Why? Because you're a selfish bitch—but that's not the only reason. You also want him to meet your needs because you want to stay with him, NSA. Showing him how to meet your needs — even if that requires bringing in the ex for a tutorial — is one way to make that happen. The current boyfriend agreed to the threesome idea quickly because he can see that. Take yes for an answer, NSA!

2. Some couples click right away, and some take some time to find their groove. My boyfriend doesn't allow me to write about our sex life in detail, but he will allow me to say this: The sex we're having at fifteen years is a lot better than the sex at fifteen weeks. So don't despair that your boyfriend isn't totally satisfying you at three months. We got there (within a year), and you can too (with some effort).

I'm dating a woman who happens to be another chap's wife. He knows. In fact, he sometimes joins in. The problem is that he had cancer some years back. It's in remission, but his immune system was hit hard. How his body would deal with various sexually transmitted infections is in question. Would a "treatable" strain of syphilis mess him up?

I love my lady friend — but since I'm dating around, we've started looking up info on the Internet about "safe sex" and have found a lot of contradictory info. You can get hepatitis B from kissing? HPV can sneak around condoms? Gonorrhea is starting to become antibiotic resistant? All this is making her feel like I might unintentionally expose her other beloved to something nasty.

My question: Does "100 percent safe sex" even exist? Is there any way to protect my lover's husband?

Daunted By Threesome Reality

There's no such thing as "100 percent safe sex," just as there's no such thing as "100 percent safe chicken salad." There is only safer sex: use condoms when appropriate, have more sex with fewer partners, get regular STI screenings. That said, hepatitis B is almost never transmitted by kissing, and there's a 100 percent effective vaccine for it. And while HPV can sneak around condoms, there's a highly effective HPV vaccine, too. And there are effective treatment options for those drug-resistant strains of gonorrhea you're reading up on.

As for your lady's man's immune system... "If his cancer has been in remission for years, his immune system would be considered completely healthy," says Dr. Barak Gaster, my medical consultant at the University of Washington. "Even when an immune system is decimated by heavy chemo, it's amazingly able to reconstitute itself."

But the only way to ensure that you're not introducing an STI into your triad — one that you're not already carrying — is to commit for now to having sex with only these two people.

A new euphemism: When someone cheats on a spouse, that should be known as "hiking the Appalachian Trail" in honor of South Carolina governor Mark Sanford.

But this Adultery Confessional Theater is getting tired. Can our culture start to deflate the drama on extramarital affairs a little? Bill Clinton, Eliot Spitzer, Larry Craig, Jon and Kate, John Ensign, Mark Sanford. Yes, it sucks if kids are involved and it often leads to divorce. But I wonder if setting the panic bar a bit lower wouldn't save more marriages. Maybe we should embrace the fact that few of us will remain monogamous over the long life of a marriage and remove sex from the presumed center of domestic life.

Anne In NJ

I'm with you, AINJ, and I have hammered away at those points for years. At the bottom of all these sex scandals is our unnatural fixation on monogamy. Human beings — male or female — aren't wired to be sexually monogamous, and the feigned shock with which we're required to greet each new revelation of infidelity would be comical if the costs weren't so great. Elevating monogamy over all else — insisting that it, and it alone, is the sole measure of love and devotion — destroys countless marriages, families, and careers.

Which is not to say that people shouldn't honor their commitments or that there aren't folks out there capable of remaining monogamous over the five-decade course of a marriage or that the hypocrisy of assholes like Sanford — who called on President Clinton to resign during Monicagate — isn't worthy of censure. But think about all the people who've cheated and gotten away with it. Our idealized notions about sex — within marriage and without — are at war with who and what we are. Sex is powerful; relationships are fragile. Why do we insist on pitting them against each other?

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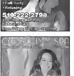
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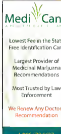
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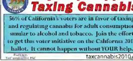

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